

ART CRITICISM

LEARNING ABOUT A WORK OF ART

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- **ART CRITICISM - IS AN ORGANIZED APPROACH FOR STUDYING A WORK OF ART MADE UP A FOUR QUESTIONS.**

DESCRIPTION: STEP ONE

What do I see in this artwork?

- NOTICE THE SUBJECT, OBJECTS, AND DETAILS.
- WHAT CAN BE SEEN IN THE WORK. (HAND, BOOK, REFLECTION, TORN EDGE, ETC.)
- SIZE, MEDIUM & PROCESS USED TO MAKE IT.
(FOUND IN THE CREDIT LINE)



ANALYSIS: STEP TWO

*How is this work organized?
What art elements & principles
are used?*

- **WHAT COLORS ARE USED?**
- **WHAT TYPE OF LINES ARE USED?**
- **DOES IT HAVE ANY TYPE OF TEXTURE, BALANCE, CONTRAST, EMPHASIS, ETC.?**



INTERPRETATION: **STEP THREE**

What is the artist trying to communicate?

- **MAKE GUESSES ABOUT THE WORK, SUPPORTED BY WHAT YOU SEE.**
- **USE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND INTELLIGENCE TO MAKE AN INTERPRETATION.**
- **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS PERSON?**



JUDGMENT: STEP FOUR

Is this a successful work of art?

- THIS IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION.
- THE FIRST LEVEL IS PERSONAL. DO YOU LIKE THE WORK?
- THE SECOND LEVEL, YOU USE AESTHETICS TO DECIDE.
- A WORK MAY BE VERY SUCCESSFUL AESTHETICALLY, BUT YOU MAY STILL NOT LIKE IT PERSONALLY.
- ASK YOURSELF, IS THIS A WORK OF ARTISTIC MERIT? IS IT SUCCESSFUL?



THINKING ABOUT A WORK OF ART

- **AESTHETICS: IS A PHILOSOPHY CONCERNED WITH THE NATURE AND VALUE OF ART.**
- **TODAY, ARTWORK IS JUDGED BY A SET OF CRITERIA AND A GOOD WORK OF ART IS CALLED SUCCESSFUL.**
- **SOME SUCCESSFUL WORKS OF ART MAY NOT LOOK PRETTY, BUT THEY MAY BE WELL-ORGANIZED, AND/OR GIVE EMOTIONAL RESPONSES FROM VIEWERS.**

3 QUALITIES OF ART

- WHEN DECIDING ON HOW SUCCESSFUL A WORK OF ART IS YOU WILL LOOK AT THE *literal qualities*, THE *formal qualities*, AND THE *expressive qualities* OF WORKS OF ART.
- THESE ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PROPERTIES OF ART: SUBJECT, COMPOSITION AND CONTENT.

3 AESTHETIC THEORIES

THE THEORIES THAT RATE THESE 3 DIFFERENT
ART QUALITIES MOST HIGHLY ARE CALLED:

Imitationalism, Formalism, and Emotionalism

IMITATIONALISM

FOCUSES ON REALISTIC
REPRESENTATION OF THE
IMAGE.



Tim Shelbourne

Portrait

digital oils with Painter 9

FORMALISM

PLACES EMPHASIS ON THE
DESIGN QUALITIES.

(ART ELEMENTS & PRINCIPLES)



Derek Lea
Elinavas
digital image

EMOTIONALISM

REQUIRES THAT A WORK
AROUSE A RESPONSE OF
FEELINGS, MOODS OR
EMOTIONS FROM THE
VIEWER.



K. Brady

Kevin Brady
The Tragedy, 2003
digital image