

Ways of looking at Artwork.

Questions to guide you when looking at artwork. This document offers 4 different ways of looking at Art. They are not in any particular order and you may choose to mix and match different questions from different ways of looking at artworks.

Visual What is your first reaction to the artwork? What is the first word that entered your head when you saw it? What did you notice first? Do some parts draw your

Memory/ experience Does the work remind you of anything? Why? Have you seen or experienced something like it before? Can you describe when or where? (on to, at home on the

Emotional. Does the work make you feel in a particular way? Can you describe why or how it makes you feel or think like that?

Sensory Does the work appeal to other senses other than seeing? Does it make noise can you touch?

PERSONAL RESPONSES
WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE ART WORK?

Value ? Opinion
Do you like or dislike it? On what basis do you decide whether or not an art work is of value to you? E.g. Skills, Ideas, Originality, meaning, relevance, difference, When you found out more about it do you feel the same way?

Space Is there a sense of space in the work? Is it real or an illusion?

Colour Can you describe how the artist has used colour? (Descriptive or emotionally). What effect do they create?

Scale How big is the work? Is this important? What effect does the size of the artwork have on you? Would it have the same impact if it was smaller or bigger?

Materials and meaning Can you see what the work is made of? Why do you think the artist chose

THE OBJECT –WHAT CAN YOU SEE ?

Mark making Can you see evidence of the artists hand— such as brushstrokes? Do the marks affect the work E.g. are they expressive, energetic or calming?

Surface and Texture What is the surface of the artwork like? E.g. rough smooth varied. Is the texture made by the material of the artwork itself or by a painted illusion?

Processes How has it been made? What skills or processes can you see?

Shapes and Patterns Can you find shapes or patterns in the artwork? Do they create a rhythm? Are they decorative, descriptive or symbolic? Can you describe them? E.g. are they sort angular or geometric?

What is it? Is it a painting sculpture Etc.?

Composition How is the work organised? How are the different parts of the work relate to each other? Is it random or organised does the organisation make sense?

Narrative Has the artwork got a narrative ? What do you think is happening ? Where is the action set? Where do you think the story comes from? Can you imagine what was happening before or after the scene created by the artist?

Theme Do you think the work has a theme ? EG the city war, relationships, family?

Subject and Meaning

Type what genre do you think the art work belong to ?E.g. portrait landscape, still-life. Does it fit into more than one type or is it impossible to put it into one type of art

Title Does the work have a title? Does this affect the way you see it?

Content and Ideas Is the work about a subject ? What do you think the artist is trying to say or represent? Could the work have a moral or symbolic meaning?

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By whom? Who made the art work? Do you think the background of the artist can inform us about why and how it was created , or what it might be about?

ART IN CONTEXT. Influences which shape the creation and reading of a work

For whom? For whom was the art made ? A patron /friend/the artist. Does it involve the viewer? In what way?

HISTORY how does the artwork link to the social ,cultural or political history of it's time? Do you think these circumstances have influenced how it was made? Does it reflect the ideas or values of the time

ART How does it link to other arts of the same period E.g. Literature, film, music, fashion, design, theatre .

ideas story comes parts imagine reaction looking trying entered

first artist

portrait