

# Art Criticism & Evaluation

## 1. DESCRIBE (What do you see?)

(Objective Thought)

- ◆ Read the credit line for information about the artwork. List the information given. (Artist, title, size, medium, and date)
- ◆ Make a list of everything you see in the artwork. Describe what you see in an objective manner. Do not make guesses or interpretations.

## 2. ANALYZE (How is the work organized?)

(Objective Thought)

- ◆ Look for the elements of art: line, value, texture, shape, form, color, and space. Which ones are important to the work? Describe how they are used in the artwork.
- ◆ How are the elements of art organized by the principles of art: balance, emphasis, rhythm, movement, proportion, harmony and unity? Give specific examples from the work to support what your statements.
- ◆ Describe the composition. Is there a focal point?

## 3. INTERPRET (What is the artist trying to communicate?)

(Subjective Thought)

- ◆ Combine the clues you have collected and your personal ideas to form an interpretation of the work.
- ◆ Does the work create a feeling or mood? If so, why?
- ◆ Is the artist trying to say something? What suggests this?

## 4. JUDGE (Is the work successful? What do you think of it?)

(Subjective & Objective Thought)

- ◆ Decide if this is a successful work. (You may have a personal opinion, but it is also important to be objective!)
- ◆ Do you think the artist has successfully used the elements and principles of art to achieve his/her goal? Explain.
- ◆ Has the artist demonstrated skill in his/her use of material/technique?
- ◆ Has the artist created an interesting work? Did it make you think/feel? Explain.

**ELEMENTS OF ART:** Line, Value, Texture, Shape, Form, Color and Space.

**PRINCIPLES OF ART:** Movement, Emphasis, Rhythm, Variety, Balance, Unity, Harmony & Proportion.

# Relationships: Elements & Principles of Art

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Artist's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

You may use this chart to help you with “**Part 2: Analyze**”. Check off the area where the greatest relationship exists between an **element** and a **principle**. Your goal is to understand how the **elements** and **principles** work together in an artwork. Remember the key is the connection between a **principle** and the **element(s)** essential in creating it!

	Emphasis	Balance	Harmony	Variety	Movement	Rhythm	Proportion	Unity
Form								
Line								
Shape								
Color								
Texture								
Space								
Value								

## Other Vocabulary

- ◆ **Leading Line** - a line that leads you visually to an object in an artwork.
- ◆ **Rhythm** - a picture that has objects that repeats (echoes) and gives a feeling of depth.
- ◆ **Framing** - looking through something to get the main subject behind it.
- ◆ **Horizontal** - appears peaceful and tranquil (beach, bed, landscape, etc).
- ◆ **Vertical** - shows strength and focus (portrait, tree, etc).
- ◆ **Informal Balance** - different things catch your eye, not just one. (Multiple objects - tends to be *asymmetrical, radial*).
- ◆ **Formal Balance** - both sides of the picture are similar (*symmetrical, classical*).
- ◆ **High Key** - very bright, intense, active.
- ◆ **Low Key** - dark, less intense, inactive.
- ◆ **Silhouette** - an outline. The lighting comes from behind the subject in your picture.
- ◆ **Objective Art** - art that is representational and references external reality or objects in nature.
- ◆ **Non-objective Art** - art not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature. Art that is abstract.
- ◆ **Subjective Criticism** - this is based on personal tastes, likes, dislikes, your own interpretation as guided by what a person have created.
- ◆ **Objective Criticism** - this is based on criteria such as composition, elements, principles, historical content, etc.