



Analysing Artist's and Designer's Work

Introduction

Name of the artist/designer.
Date of birth, date of death.
Education / career information

When and where was the artwork made?
What themes does the artist explore?
What is the style of the artist's work?
Which art movement are they affiliated with?

Initial Responses

Why have you chosen to look at this particular artist / artwork?
How will this piece / artist connect with your project?
What was your first reaction to the artwork?
How would you initially describe the artwork?
How does the artwork make you feel?
What does this art remind you of?
What question would you ask the artist, if you could?
What title would you give this artwork? Why?
Have you seen or experienced something like this before? Describe this.
Is this artwork displayed anywhere? If so where and why?

Contextual Understanding

When and where was the artwork created?
What influenced the artist to produce their work / piece?
What is the artist trying to communicate or show through their work?
What are the key ideas behind the artist's work?
What is the purpose of the artwork work?
Do you think there is any hidden message inside the artwork?

The Formal Elements

Subject Matter

What is the artwork is about / of? Describe in detail.
How has the artist used different objects / images in their work?
How does the choice of objects / images affect the look or feel of the work?
What did you learn about the artist's use of subject matter from doing your visual study?

Materials / Techniques

What material(s) has the artist used?
Describe the processes and techniques used.
How does the choice of materials / techniques / processes affect the look or feel of the work?
What did you learn about the artist's use of materials and techniques from doing your visual study?

Composition

How does the artist draw your attention to the most important parts of the artwork?

What is the centre of interest / focal point?

How are all the other objects organised and positioned in the work?

How do your eyes move around the artwork? How does the artist make this happen?

What type of compositional layout have they used?

What stands out the most? What seems more hidden?

What did you learn about the composition of the artwork from doing your visual study?

Value

Is artwork light-dominant or dark-dominant?

How has the artist used a range of value in their work?

What type of lighting is used in the artwork? (Dappled, direct, diffused, backlight).

Describe the shadows created in the artwork. What colours has the artist used to create the shadows? How have they been layered?

How has the artist used highlights and shadows to create depth, texture and shape?

Describe the highlights in the artwork. What technique have the artist used?

What relationships do the values have?

What did you learn about the artist's use of value / tone from doing your visual study?

Colour

What are the dominant / main colours? Where can they be seen?

Does the artist use harmonious or contrasting or complementary colours? What impact does this have? (Analogue, triadic, complementary or a combination)

Describe how the colours change in different areas of the work?

What saturated and / or desaturated colours does the artist use?

How does the artist's choice of colour affect the look / feel of the work?

What did you learn about the artist's use of colour from doing your visual study?

Space

What is the scale of the artwork? How does this have an impact on the viewer?

How is space created in the artwork? Does it use linear / atmospheric perspective?

How are the objects arranged / organised in the artwork to give a sense of space or distance?

How is colour used to give a sense of space or distance?

What did you learn about space from doing your visual study?

Shape / Form

How has the artist shown shape in the artwork?

How has the artist used line, tone or colour to show the shape / form?

What did you learn about the artist's use of shape or form from doing your visual study?

Surface

What surface has the artist used? Describe the surface texture of the artwork.

What materials / processes / techniques have been used?

How does the surface texture affect the overall look or feel of the artwork?

What did you learn about the artwork from doing your visual study?

Texture

How has the artist created texture on their artwork?

What techniques have they used?

How has tone, line and colour created the texture?

What did you learn about the artist's use of texture from doing your visual study?

Mood / Atmosphere

What feeling / mood / atmosphere does the artist create?

How does the artist do this? How has it been achieved?

What did you learn about feeling / mood / atmosphere of the work from doing your visual study?

Concluding Response

Why is looking at this particular artwork so important to your project?

What is the most important thing you have learnt about the artwork?

How could the artist's idea influence your project and what you intend to do?

How could you be inspired in your experiments with the theme, subject matter, colour, composition, value, materials, techniques, mood etc.?

What formal elements could you take from this work and apply into yours?

How has looking at this artist's work affected what you plan to do on your project now?