

**Looking To Learn Assignment**  
**Art History Spring 2012**  
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|            |               |                                                  |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Due Dates: | <b>F 4/20</b> | Ancient/Classical/Medieval                       |
|            | <b>F 4/27</b> | Renaissance/Baroque                              |
|            | <b>F 5/4</b>  | Rococo/Neoclassical                              |
|            | <b>F 5/11</b> | Romantic/Impressionism (etc)                     |
|            | <b>W 5/23</b> | <b>2</b> Modern/Surrealism/Abstract/Pop/Contemp. |
|            | <b>W 5/30</b> | African/Asian/Latin                              |

**Locate ONE (two for 5/23 due date)** image that is interesting to you that come from the artistic periods or places that are being studied that week. **Research** the piece and any information that you can readily learn about the artist and her/his world. (Use suggested websites list for internet searches)

1- Prepare your image to be loaded onto classroom laptop (jpeg is best) before or at class start on due date. **(5 points)**

2- On a sheet of paper record:

A-**Title** of piece, **artist**, **date** created, **location** created and current display

B-List your sources **(5 points A&B)**

C- Full sentence **Critical Analysis** that looks at the piece from **3 analytical perspectives and answers at least 7 questions total.** **(10 points)**

3- Be Prepared to present the image and a verbal analysis on due date. Not everyone will be chosen to present every due date. **(5 points)**

Use the reference questions on this and the back side for forming your critical analysis.

*Some Reminders on Structuring a Critical Analysis:*

**Visual Elements Analysis (Formalism)** How is it arranged?

-think Composition, Line, Shape & Form, Space, Color, Texture

Questions to ponder (not all may or should be answered and add your own!)

How has the work been composed? Symmetrically, asymmetrically?

Is there a focal point?

Where do the lines lead the eye? Why?

Has the artist used color, think Hue, value, intensity?

What are the shapes that make up this piece, is there repetition?

Is there pattern or rhythm created by lines?

How is space used, and what is the effect of the use of space?

Describe the texture?

Does the composition work as a whole?

**Meaning/Content/Narration Analysis (Iconography)** What is it all about? What does it mean?

-think about the intention of the contents included

Questions to ponder

What is the subject matter?

What is the work about?

Does the work or content symbolize anything? (don't assume it was symbolic for artist)

What is the significant meaning of objects/people/etc in the piece? What different meaning might they have for different cultures?

**Historical Context Analysis for piece/artist (Contextualism)** Why was it made?

-CHECK YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE: think about the events going on around artist which may have compelled the creation of work

Questions to ponder

Is the work from an observational starting point, or from memory or study?

Was the artist paid and directed by a patron to create this piece? If so, who and why was it so?

What significant events: political/social/religious/economic etc. were happening near the time?

What was the artist's level of engagement in society/events?

**Process & Semiotic Analysis** How was it made?

-think about the artist's connection to an artistic movement, patterns in art, new ideas, and "collective conscience"

Questions to ponder

How was the work made, with what tools?

Where was it created?

Does the work affect you in any way?

Does it capture a mood, feeling or emotion? Which you have already experienced?

Does it convey feelings about life and nature?

What does the artist's creation have in common with other artists of his/her time?

What specific artistic movement has this piece/artist been associated with, why?

*Additional Analyses*

**Biography**

Can you make a connection between the artist's personal life and the subject/representation of the piece?

Assume there was intentional meaning in subject, what is it?

Was this piece created at a time of personal hardship and instability, or a time of peace and stability?

Was this piece created by artist as a student, or master?

**Marxist**

Did the artist create a piece that shines light on economic inequality?

Did the artist create this piece to provoke thought or conflict?

Do you read conflict into the piece?

**Feminist**

Did the artist create a piece that shines light on gender inequality?

Did the artist create this piece to provoke thought or conflict?

Do you read conflict into the piece?

**Psychoanalytical**

What qualities in the painting betray the artist's inner self?

What do you interpret to be subconsciously presented images/ideas/desires?

**Finally.....DO YOU LIKE IT? WHY?**