

Artist Paper – Written Assignment

Due: April 14, 2016

Directions:

Describe, analyze, and interpret a work of art. While attending an exhibition of contemporary art in Denver (or its surrounding areas), select **ONE work of art** from the exhibition, and write a *formal analysis* and a *descriptive review*. It does not have to be a drawing but you should consider formal design elements –shape, line, repetition, variety, value, unity, rhythm, composition, etc. It can be a piece that you either like or do not like. Take notes while at the gallery.

Your paper must be at least 2 pages in length, typed, 12 point font, 1” margins, and double spaced. ASK BEFORE TAKING PHOTOS AT GALLERIES.

Use the *Four Elements of Art Criticism* listed below as guidelines to help you write about the piece.

1. Description

- a. “What do I see?” – What does the work look like?
- b. Subject matter – objects, imagery, shapes.
- c. What is the size and shape of the work?
- d. What is the title of the piece, name of artist, medium, date?

2. Analysis

- a. “How is the work organized?” The composition and construction of the piece.
- b. Visual – subjective, objective, highly representational, abstract.
- c. Describe the work in terms of shape, line, repetition, variety, value, unity, rhythm, composition, etc.
 - i. Discuss such topics as the use light/shadow, use of shape, etc. – as they apply to the individual piece.
- d. Discuss the work in terms of composition (use of Directional Force, Harmony, Balance, Variety, Emphasis, Movement, Economy) How does the eye move around the piece?

3. Interpretation

- a. In your view - What is the work about? What is happening? What is it trying to communicate/say?
 - i. Quickly list many adjectives that describe the character of the work. Is it calm or chaotic? Loud or quiet?
- b. Feeling, mood, or ideas communicated by the work
- c. Expressive qualities – use of techniques/materials
- d. How does the scale and dimensions relate to the overall feel of the work?
- e. How do the materials used relate to the overall feel of the work?
- f. How do the formal elements relate to the overall feel of the work?
 - i. Shape
 - ii. Texture
 - iii. Color
 - iv. Value

4. Aesthetic Judgments

- a. What do you think of the work? Why?
- b. What drew you to the piece? Why did you select it?

Course #: ART 1141, Section 3, Spring 2016

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Suggested writing format:

First paragraph: Introduction

Second paragraph: Description

Third paragraph: Analysis

Fourth paragraph: Interpretation

Fifth paragraph: Aesthetic Judgments

Sixth paragraph: Conclusion

Recommended Galleries:

DU

Vicki Myhren Gallery

Auraria Campus

Emmanuel Gallery, 1205 10th St.

RMCAD (Lakewood)

Philip J. Steele Gallery, 1600 Pierce St,

LoDo

MCA, 1485 Delgany St

Robischon Gallery, 1740 Wazee St.

David B. Smith, 1543 Wazee St.

RiNO District

Ice Cube Gallery, 3320 Walnut St.

Hinterland, 3254 Walnut St.

Redline, 2350 Arapahoe St.

Ironton, 3636 Chestnut St.

Helikon Gallery, 3675 Wynkoop St.

Arvada

Arvada Center for the Arts,

6901 Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada, CO

East Colfax

Leon Gallery, 1112 E 17th Ave.

Abend Gallery, 2260 E Colfax Ave.

Golden Triangle

Goodwin Fine Art, 1255 Delaware St.

William Havu Gallery, 1040 Cherokee St.

Walker Fine Art, 300 W 11th Ave.

Navajo Street Art District

Edge Gallery, 3658 Navajo St.

Next Gallery, 3659 Navajo St.

Pirate, 3655 Navajo St.

Zip 37, 3644 Navajo St.

Art District on Santa Fe

Gildar Gallery, 82 South Broadway

Space Gallery, 400 Santa Fe Dr.

Center for Visual Art, 965 Santa Fe Dr.

VERTIGO Art Space, 960 Santa Fe Dr.

Sync Gallery, 878-1 Santa Fe Dr.

Core New Art Space, 900 Santa Fe Dr.

Spark Gallery, 900 Santa Fe Dr.

Access Gallery, 909 Santa Fe Dr