

HOW TO VIEW ART WITH A CRITICAL EYE

DESCRIBE!

Try to discover as much as you can about the artwork. Think like a detective! *Who* made it? *How*? With *what*?

Are things in the work that you recognize? People? Objects? Activities?

What kinds of colors, shapes and lines?

What is the first thing you noticed?

INTERPRET!

Try to explain what this artwork means. Always try to give reasons for your interpretation.

What mood or feeling seems to be expressed in this artwork?

Does it seem *quiet? happy? silly? serious?*

Does it seem *frightening? powerful? sad?*

Is it *dream-like? welcoming? energetic?*

Use *adjectives* to describe how the work makes you feel.

EVALUATE!

Tell how the artwork is *important* or *special*. This is where you formulate an opinion of the artwork, based upon your *description* and *interpretation*. Ask yourself the following questions:

What do you see in the artwork that gets your attention? *Colors? Shapes? Materials?*

Is the artwork important or special because it *reminds* you of something or someone?

Is the artwork important or special because of what it *means* or how it makes you *feel*?

Would you like others to see this artwork? *Who? Why?*