

Critiquing Methods

Below is a short outline for the way we will approach critiquing in E5 this semester. While this is not the only method it does provide us with a framework with which to approach works of art in the course.

Description:

Describe the work objectively, this deals with where, who and when. Avoid interpretation.

What is the title and who is (are) the artist(s)?

Describe the subject matter. What is it all about? Are there recognizable images?

Describe the technical qualities of the work (i.e., tools, materials, instruments).

Describe the elements of the work (i.e., line movement, light, space).

Formal Analysis

Describe how the work is organized as a complete composition. How do the formal elements relate to one another?

Identify some of the similarities throughout the work (i.e., repetition of lines).

Identify some of the points of emphasis in the work (i.e., specific scene, figure, movement).

If the work has subjects or characters, what are the relationships between or among them?

Interpretation

Describe how the work makes you think or feel. What is the artist trying to say?

What do you think the artist is trying to say with the piece?

Describe the expressive qualities you find in the work. What is the emotion or tone of the piece?

Does the work remind you of other things you have experienced?

Artist, what was your intention with the work? What did you find successful, what did you want to improve?

Evaluation

Present your opinion on how well the work achieves its intention:

What qualities of the work support the intention and what qualities detracted?

Does the work say what the artist wanted to say?

What do you think the artist could improve on?

Does the work communicate significant ideas or arouse emotions? Etc.