
Activity 2-2: Understanding Art

When looking at art with the intent to understand it, art historians and critics ask questions similar to these.

Gathering Data:

When looking at an object the art historian first describes the article as fully as possible and then asks a series of questions:

- When was it made? _____
- Where was it made (nation)? _____
- Who made it (Artist or culture if artist is unknown) _____
- Who was it made for (Can you find the patron) _____
- What was its purpose / why was it made? _____
- How was it made? What materials and processes were used?

- Why do you think this particular work was preserved in our art history?

Interpreting the art work:

1. Identify and describe the **form** of the work, including such things as: character of line, colour, shape, value, and texture as well as the works compositional arrangement. **Trace and describe the path through which your eye is intended to travel through the work.**

Activity 2-2 Understanding Art

2. Identify and describe the **content** of the art work (objects, relationships, activities, etc...)

3. What attracted you to the art? Explain

4. Would you categorize this work as primarily being Observational, Expressive or Political? Explain why.

5. Using what you have learned about the work so far (form, content, and context), what does this art work mean to you?

Activity 2-2 Understanding Art

6. What do you think this work meant to the artist?

7. What was happening socially and politically in the time and place when this artwork was made? How does this work reflect its time and place in the world? *In enabling this research, it helps to focus on when and where this artwork was made.*

8. What do you think the public's response to this work was? Explain.
