

# Analysis of works of art: Pictures

1. Composition
  1. Underlying geometric shapes, horizontals/verticals/diagonals. Symmetry/asymmetry, balance of masses or tones.
2. Light
  2. Overall tone dark or light? Even in tone or chiaroscuro? Outline – how can we see the objects? 1 or multiple light sources? Coherence?
3. Picture Space
  3. How is depth achieved? Linear perspective / aerial perspective / overlapping / scale / brush-strokes / trompe l'oeil/shading. Interlocutors.
4. View Point
  4. Where is the viewer/artist looking from – how high/low, left/right, and how near?
5. Detail
  5. A lot of detail/ornamentation/ realism/ decoration/ minimalism?
6. Painterliness
  6. Use of brush-stroke or disguised brush-work, impasto, different mediums and techniques, plasticity.
7. Dynamism
  7. Sense of movement – sweeping compositions, calm order, drama of light or colour.
8. Style
  8. Abstract/semi-abstract/figurative. Subjective/objective. Expressionistic/illusionistic. Classical/romantic. Idealism/realism.
9. Colour
  9. Colour: cold/warm, complementaries/primaries, monochrome, translucent/opaque.
10. Interpretation
  10. What is the artist trying to tell you? How does he/she feel about the subject? Cultural baggage. Expectation of viewer understanding. Symbolism.