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VISUAL ANALYSIS GUIDE

What is the art medium?

What art category is it and why? Realism, Expressionism, Abstraction, or Non-objective

What is the subject (the noun/the what)?

What is the form (the how)?

1. The Visual Elements of Art

- Line
 - Actual lines, implied lines, psychological lines
 - Horizontal lines, vertical lines, diagonal lines
 - Outlines or contour lines
 - Crosshatch, stippling or hatching
- Shape
 - What is distinguishing the shapes? Value, texture or color?
 - Shape, value, form, volume, mass (actual or implied)
 - Geometric - curvilinear or rectilinear - organic, nonobjective, abstract, amorphous
 - Figure, ground, positive shape, negative shape, figure-ground reversal
- Value
 - Achromatic grays, chromatic grays, Low key value range, high key value range, value contrast
 - Chiaroscuro vs. Tenebrism
- Color
 - Primary colors, secondary colors, tertiary colors
 - Hue, Value and Intensity; tint, shade and tone
 - High key colors vs low key colors; light reflection vs absorption
 - Warm, neutral and cool colors
 - Monochromatic, analogous and complementary color schemes
 - Local color, optical color and arbitrary color

- Texture
 - Actual texture and visual texture
 - Invented texture and subversive texture
 - Pattern
- Space
 - Actual vs illusional space (relative size, overlapping, vertical positioning, atmospheric perspective, linear perspective - one, two, twisted or multiple points)
- Time - implied time
- Motion - actual motion vs implied motion (multiplication of images, blurred lines, optical sensations)

2. The Principles of Design

- Unity
 - The grid, proximity, repetition, color and value, line
- Variety
- Emphasis
- Focal Point -
 - Directional lines, color or value contrast, placement
 - Static vs activated objects or figures
- Balance
 - Balance and imbalance
 - Actual balance vs visual balance
 - Pure/formal symmetry, approximate symmetry, asymmetrical balance, horizontal balance, vertical balance, diagonal balance, radial balance
- Rhythm - Regular, alternative or progressive
- Scale - Relative size, Hierarchical size, distortion of scale
- Proportion - true to life, exaggerated, etc.
- Composition - circular, triangle, the golden rectangle, the golden spiral, the root five rectangle

Describe the content/concept (the ideas and intellectual interpretations)?

What are the ideas being expressed? What is the intellectual interpretation? Are there historical references?
 What cultural concepts are being expressed? Feminism? Racial identity? Gender identity? Sexuality?
 Is there symbolism or iconography?

Do you have any additional emotional responses to the work?

Do you have any personal connections to this work? What does it mean to you personally?



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