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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

**Describe 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
  - Outline vs contour style shading
  - Crosshatch, stippling or hatching
- Shape
  - Geometric - curvilinear or rectilinear
  - Organic
- 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
  - Monochromatic, analogous and complementary color schemes
  - Local color, optical color and arbitrary color
- Texture
  - Actual and visual texture
  - Invented texture, 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?

What cultural concepts are being expressed? Feminism? Racial identity? Gender identity? Sexuality?

Are there historical references?

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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