

Artwork Analysis

- 1. Content/Message**
 - What is it about?
 - What is happening in the work?
 - What does the work represent (speculate about what the work might stand for)?
 - Are there any symbols you recognize?
- 2. Title**
 - What does the artist call the work?
 - Does this change the way you see the work?
- 3. Theme/Type/Genre**
 - What is the theme of the work?
 - How does the work relate to other art genres and movements?
- 4. Colour**
 - What colours does the artist use (warm/cool)?
 - What is the reason for this colour usage?
 - How are the colours organized?
 - What effect do they create?
 - What mood do the colours create?
- 5. Shapes**
 - What kind of shapes can you find in the artwork?
 - Are they curved, straight, sharp, or pointed?
 - What effect/mood do they create?
- 6. Marks**
 - What kind of marks does the artist use? (Cross hatching, hatching, contour hatching, etc?)
 - What effect/mood do they create?
- 7. Surface**
 - What is the surface like (smooth/rough, glossy)?
- 8. Scale**
 - What kind of textures to you see?
 - What effect/mood do they create?
 - How big is the work?
 - Why is it this size?
 - Would its meaning change if it were bigger/smaller?
 - Which elements in the work are bigger or smaller?
 - What does the size of different elements tell us?
- 9. Space**
 - What sense or illusion of space and depth do you find in the work?
 - Or is there none?
 - Do some artists want us to realize that a painting is only paint on a flat canvas?
- 10. Materials**
 - What materials is the work made of?
 - Are they traditional or found materials?
 - How would you respond to the work if the artist had used a different material?
 - What associations or connotations do the materials carry?
- 11. Process**
 - How has the work been made?
 - Has the artist made it or has it been fabricated?
 - What kind of skills was involved?
 - What changes might have occurred while the artwork was being made?
 - How visible/invisible is the process of its making?
 - If it is an installation how has it been assembled?
 - Is it a video piece, how was it filmed and how is it projected?
- 12. Composition**
 - How has the work been put together?
 - What is the focus point?
 - What effect does this create?