

Instructions: Use the prompts below to write about the artwork.

Art Reflections - A warm up



Artwork Title:

I see

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

I Think

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

I know

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

You might think

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Art Reflections - An Analysis



CONTEX

- What do you know about the artist?
- Does the artwork belong to a movement ?
- Does the period of history have an influence on the artwork ? or Artist?

CONTENT

- What is the subject matter of the work?
- Has the subject matter been selected as a matter of interest in itself or for the purpose of expressing social, moral, religious or political concerns of the artist or patron?
- Was the subject observed at first hand or from memory or imagination?
- How has the artist interpreted the subject matter - representationally or with exaggeration, distortion or abstraction?
- What do you think the artist's reasons might be for treating it like this?
- Is the subject matter meant to be taken at face value or are there hidden meanings such as symbols, double meanings, metaphors in the work which are not immediately evident?
- Has the artist used similar subject matter in other paintings and, if so, how do they compare?
- Have other artists used similar subject matter and, if so, what comparisons & contrasts can be made?

FORM

- How have things in the painting been arranged - are they orderly, busy, chaotic?
- Is the arrangement in keeping with the images portrayed or is at odds with them in some way?
- What kind of colour scheme has the artist chosen?
- Is it harmonious or discordant?
- Does one colour dominate are there several of fairly equal significance?
- Is there a shape which predominates or is the composition made up of combinations of inter-related shapes?
- Are there recurring shapes, lines, rhythms, forms which determine the design of the work?
- Does the work have a unified texture or is there a variety of different textures?
- Does the painting hold together as a unified whole or are there parts which you think are better than others?

PROCESS

- What materials, processes, tools and techniques were used to produce the work?
- Have you used similar materials and techniques and, if so, how does your handling of these compare with that which you see in the painting?
- In what setting do you think the work was painted and what effect might this have had on the outcome?
- How did the artist start out on this work?
- Try to describe, from start to finish, the different stages which the artist went through in order to produce this work.
- What research might the artist have undertaken in preparing to produce it?
- Did the artist work slowly or quickly and how long did it take to produce the final painting?
- What particular skills can you identify in the work?

MOOD

- As you take time to look at the work, what impression does it have on you?
- Does it capture a mood, feeling or emotion that you have experienced before?
- What sort of feelings does it convey to you personally about life?
- What might the artist have felt when producing this work?
- Is the painting quiet, contemplative, soothing to the senses or does it have the opposite effect?
- For what kind of setting or what kind of person would the painting be most suited?
- Are your feelings about the painting likely to pass quickly or is it something that will have a lasting impression on you?
- What qualities does the painting have which may affect the mood of someone?
- If you were trying to create this mood what sort of painting might you produce?

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT



CONTEXT

After researching Basquiat's work on the internet I found out that Basquiat started his artistic career as a graffiti artist and was discovered by Andy Warhol a famous artist in the 1960s. His work is often described as neo expressive and this means that his paintings are about emotions.

Basquiat was born in New York and was the son of black immigrants. When he was young he was hurt in a car accident and his mother bought him a book full of images of the inside of bodies. He was a street artist and was regular in trouble with the police. He later met Andy Warhol and quickly became famous. He sadly died when he was young. The artwork I am looking at is called "Gold Gringot" it was created by Basquiat in New York in 1983. The painting can be seen in the "Broad Art Foundation Santa Monica". Basquiat used acrylic paint, paint sticks and found materials in this picture he painted it on old wooden planks. The painting measures 297-x185.5 cm.

CONTENT The painting is of a man but you can see inside him as if he was an x-ray. I think that the painting is very lively the artist has used very bright colours to draw the figure. I think that the picture is very angry. As the artist's mark making looks very rushed as if he is trying to get the image out of his mind in a hurry. The painting looks very rushed as there are parts of the painting that have been painted over as if the artist had made a mistake. This could make you think that the artist is not really bothered what people think about his work not hiding his mistakes.

FORM

The painting has been produced on a group of old boards that have obviously been used as a floor or door. This adds to the feeling of spontaneity as I think he probably found it on a building site or skip.

The painting looks very rough and rushed as if Basquiat needed to finish it urgently. Basquiat has used a lot of black and white and he has also used some very bright colours such as yellow, red, blue, green and purple which I think adds to the feeling of anger.

PROCESS

The painting has been simply arranged with the figure being centrally placed down the centre of the boards.

Your eye is drawn to the oversized head that dominates the composition. This is the result of the way that the artist has concentrated on the head as opposed to the body which I think looks unfinished.

The painting seems to have been produced by a rapid application of paint in blocks, probably applying black paint first using large scale brushes or even paint rollers. This has caused it to dribble and adds to the sense of urgency in the image. The artist has used smaller marks of bright, discordant colours then to embellish the image with vibrant, lively patterns and lines that make me think about African masks. The overall effect is of an image that has been worked on very quickly and I think that it is very exciting as it reminds me of graffiti art.

MOOD

The mood of the image is very lively and I think angry. It is full of energy and the way it looks unfinished makes me think that the artist was in a rush to finish it and move onto the next thing that was on his mind. The use of brightly coloured patterns on the face looks like he's angry and happy at the same time.



Compare and Contrast

My Artwork Title: _____

Describe using the context ,content , form , process and mood questions write notes here about your own work

Describe how your work relates to that of Basquiat

Describe using the context ,content , form , process and mood questions write notes here about Basquiat painting

Artwork Title: _____ Artist _____