

# Ways of looking at Artwork.

Questions to guide you when looking at artwork. This document offers 4 different ways of looking at Art. They are not in any particular order and you may choose to mix and match different questions from different ways of looking at artworks.

**Visual** What is your first reaction to the artwork? What is the first word that entered your head when you saw it? What did you notice first? Do some parts draw your

**Memory/ experience** Does the work remind you of anything? Why? Have you seen or experienced something like it before? Can you describe when or where? (on to, at home on the

**Emotional.** Does the work make you feel in a particular way? Can you describe why or how it makes you feel or think like that?

**Sensory** Does the work appeal to other senses other than seeing? Does it make noise can you touch?

**PERSONAL RESPONSES**  
**WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE ART WORK?**

**Value ? Opinion**  
Do you like or dislike it? On what basis do you decide whether or not an art work is of value to you? E.g. Skills, Ideas, Originality, meaning, relevance, difference, When you found out more about it do you feel the same way?

**Space** Is there a sense of space in the work? Is it real or an illusion?

**Colour** Can you describe how the artist has used colour? (Descriptive or emotionally). What effect do they create?

**Scale** How big is the work? Is this important? What effect does the size of the artwork have on you? Would it have the same impact if it was smaller or bigger?

**Materials and meaning** Can you see what the work is made of? Why do you think the artist chose

**Mark making** Can you see evidence of the artists hand— such as brushstrokes? Do the marks affect the work E.g. are they expressive, energetic or calming?

**THE OBJECT –WHAT CAN YOU SEE ?**

**Surface and Texture** What is the surface of the artwork like? E.g. rough smooth varied. Is the texture made by the material of the artwork itself or by a painted illusion?

**Processes** How has it been made? What skills or processes can you see?

**Shapes and Patterns** Can you find shapes or patterns in the artwork? Do they create a rhythm? Are they decorative, descriptive or symbolic? Can you describe them? E.g. are they sort angular or geometric?

**What is it?** Is it a painting sculpture Etc.?

**Composition** How is the work organised? How are the different parts of the work relate to each other? Is it random or organised does the organisation make sense?

**Narrative** Has the artwork got a narrative ? What do you think is happening ? Where is the action set? Where do you think the story comes from? Can you imagine what was happening before or after the scene created by the artist?

**Theme** Do you think the work has a theme ? EG the city war, relationships, family?

### Subject and Meaning

**Type** what genre do you think the art work belong to ?E.g. portrait landscape, still-life. Does it fit into more than one type or is it impossible to put it into one type of art

**Title** Does the work have a title? Does this affect the way you see it?

**Content and Ideas** Is the work about a subject ? What do you think the artist is trying to say or represent? Could the work have a moral or symbolic meaning?

**Narrative** Has the artwork got a narrative ? What do you think is happening ? Where is the action set? Where do you think the story comes from? Can you imagine what was happening before or after the scene created by the artist?

**By whom?** Who made the art work? Do you think the background of the artist can inform us about why and how it was created , or what it might be about?

### ART IN CONTEXT. Influences which shape the creation and reading of a work

**For whom?** For whom was the art made ? A patron /friend/the artist. Does it involve the viewer? In what way?

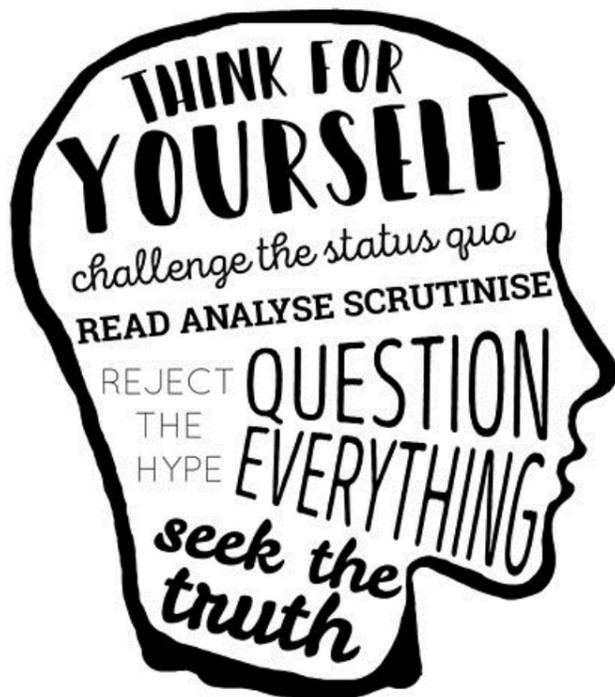
**HISTORY** how does the artwork link to the social ,cultural or political history of it's time? Do you think these circumstances have influenced how it was made? Does it reflect the ideas or values of the time

**ART** How does it link to other arts of the same period E.g. Literature, film, music, fashion, design, theatre .

ideas story comes parts imagine reaction  
time looking  
first artist  
portrait trying entered



(The Treason of Images – René Magritte)



AO1 Critical understanding Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

ARTWORK TITLE

ARTIST

I see.....

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

I think.....

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

I know.....

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

I feel .....

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_