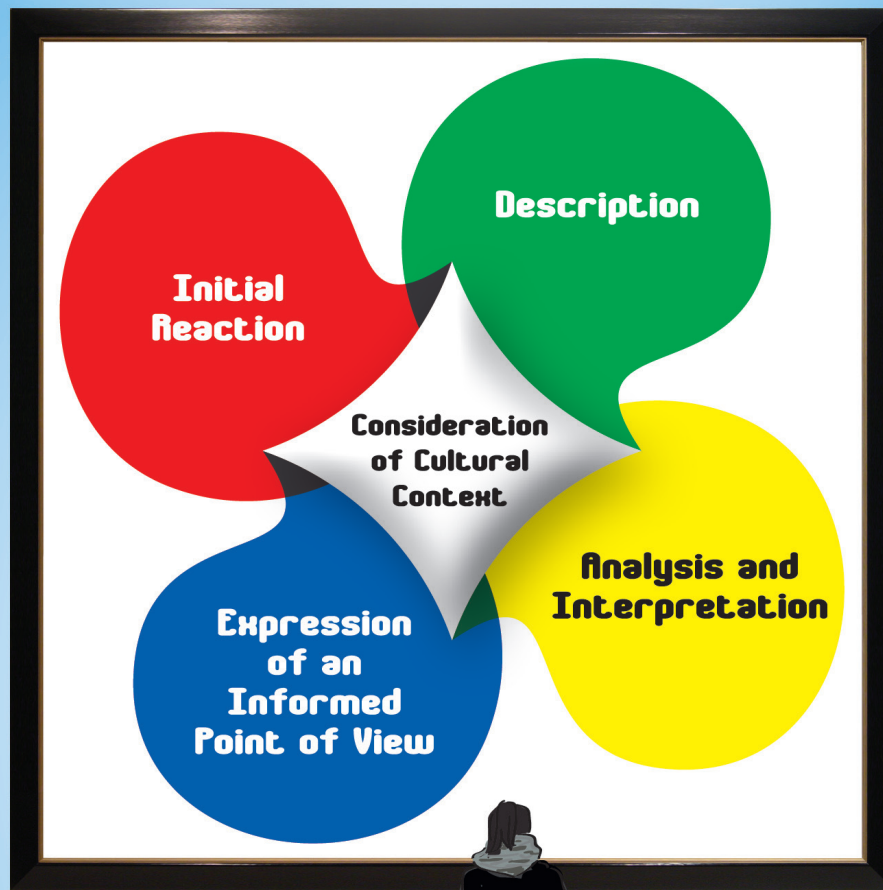


The Critical Analysis Process

An Approach to Critical Thinking



Questions to Assist Your Critical Analysis Process

Initial Reaction

- Does this artwork remind you of anything?
- What feelings do you have about this artwork?
- What puzzles you about this artwork? What are your questions?
- What questions would you ask the artist/designer?

Description

- What do you see? Can you identify the subject matter?
- How was this artwork made? What techniques and/or materials were used?
- What is the name of the artist? What do you know about him/her?

Analysis

- Which art elements are most important in this work?
- Where is the focal point? How has this been emphasized?
- Where are there areas of contrast or pattern?
- Where has the artist suggested movement or created rhythm?
- How has a feeling of balance been created?

Interpretation

- What is happening in this artwork? What is this artwork about?
- How does the title of this artwork add to its meaning?
- What feelings, thoughts or ideas does this artwork suggest to you?
- Does this artwork connect with some aspect of your life?

Cultural Context

- When was this artwork made?
- Where was this artwork made?
- Why was this artwork created? How was it used?
- Was this artwork created for a particular individual or group?
- What connection might this artwork have with our present society or culture?

Informed Point of View

- Do you feel this artwork is successful? Why or why not?
- What might you change about this work, and why?
- What qualities make this artwork valuable?
- How have your opinions and feelings changed from your initial reaction?

