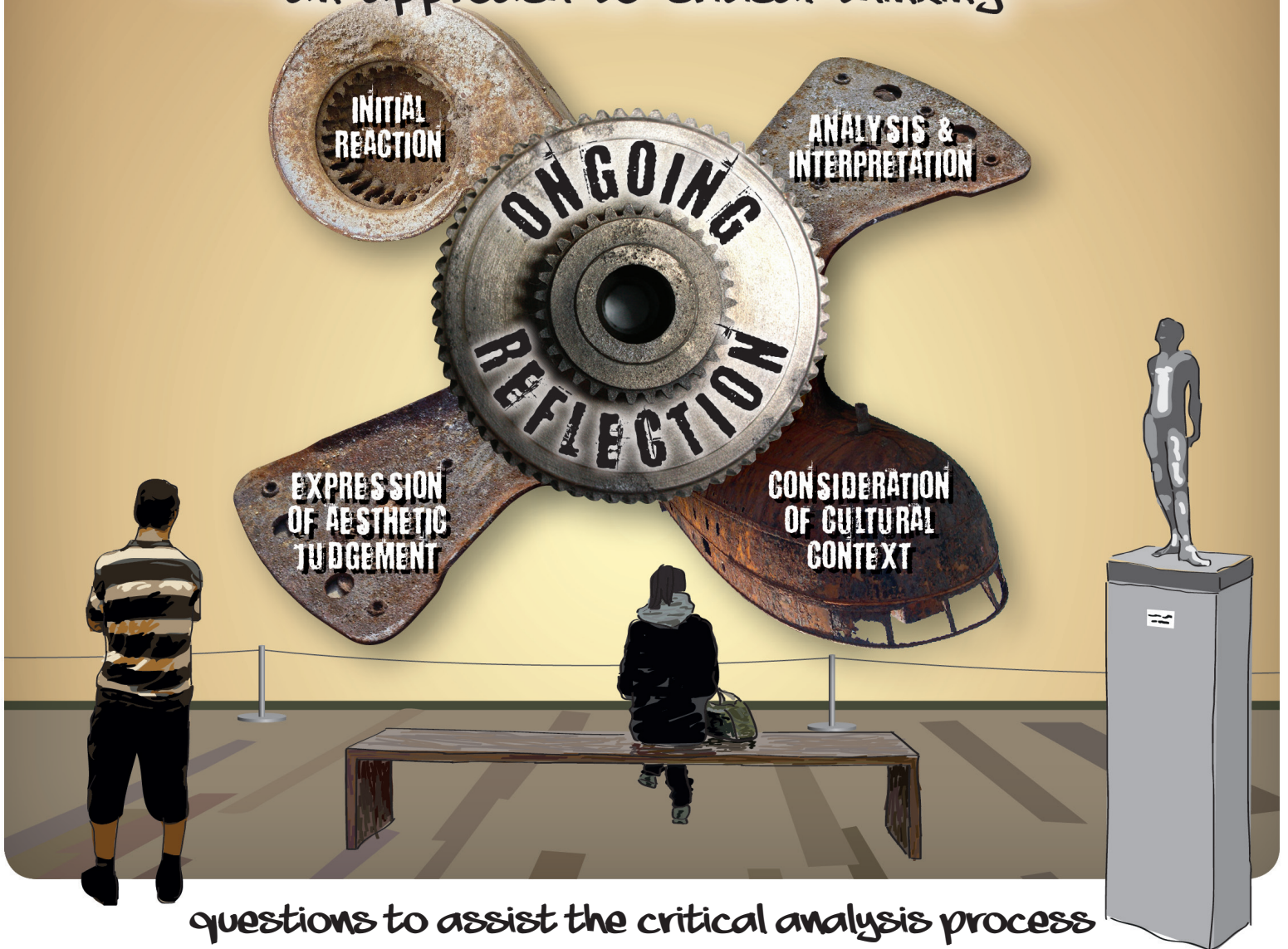


# THE CRITICAL ANALYSIS PROCESS

an approach to critical thinking



## questions to assist the critical analysis process

### Initial Reaction

- What is your first impression of this artwork?
- What does this image remind you of? Is there anything that you recognize?
- What emotional reaction do you have to this artwork?
- What puzzles you? What are your questions?
- Can you make any personal connections with this artwork?
- What would you ask the artist/designer?

### Analysis

- How was this artwork made? Which medium, technique, and/or process has been used by the artist?
- Can you identify the subject matter of this work?

- Can you provide a detailed description of what you see?
- Which art elements are most significant in this work? Use adjectives to describe their particular qualities.
- Where is the focal point or area of emphasis in this work? How has the artist/designer made this location important?
- Where can you locate any contrasts among art elements?
- Can you indicate where the artist has used rhythm or tried to suggest movement?
- How has the artist/designer created a sense of visual balance in this work? Which parts contribute to this balance?
- How has the artist/designer used colours or values to achieve unity?

### Interpretation

- What specific emotions, feelings or thoughts does this artwork provoke in you?
- What is this artwork about?
- What big idea does this artwork represent?
- Does this artwork symbolize something else?
- Does the title of this artwork add to its meaning?
- How is this reproduction different from the original artwork?
- Can this artwork be interpreted differently? Does it mean what the artist/designer intended?
- Can this artwork be interpreted using a particular art theory?

### Cultural Context

- What is the name and culture/nationality of the artist?
- When & where was the artwork created?
- Why was this artwork created? What purpose might it have served or how was it used?
- In what condition is the artwork? How did it look when it was new?
- Who were/are the intended spectators of this artwork? Was it created for a particular individual, group or culture?
- Does the artwork belong to a particular period of history or a specific art style?
- What connection might this work have with our present society or culture?

### Aesthetic Judgement

- Do you feel this artwork is successful? What are your reasons?
- In what ways does this artwork look like other artworks?
- How does this artwork connect with me or some aspect of my life?
- What qualities make this artwork valuable?
- What might you change about this work, and why?
- Have your opinions and feelings changed from your initial reaction?
- How might you combine various judgments about this same artwork?

