

Analysing Art

Context – looking at the subject of the work

What is it? What exactly can you see? What is happening? What does the work represent?

What does the artist call the work?

Does the title change the way we see the work?

What is the theme of the work?

landscape, portrait, journey, moment, memory, event, surreal, fantasy, abstract, message, energy

Form – looking at the formal elements

What colours does the artist use? Why? How is the colour organised?

What kind of shapes can you find?

What kind of lines and marks does the artist use?

What is the surface like?

What kind of textures can you see?

What kind of patterns can you see?

How big is the work?

light, delicate, layered, strong, rough, dark, peaceful, dripped, textured, scale, vivid, bright

Process – how the work has been developed and made

What materials and tools have been used?

What is the evidence and clues for how it has been made?

painted, woven, printed, drawn, cast, stitched, layered, assembled, collage

Mood – looking at the communication of moods and feelings

How does the work make you feel?

Why do you feel like this?

Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect your mood?

quiet, contemplative, thoughtful, hopeful, peaceful, stated, joyful, celebratory, reflective

Interpretation and Justification – looking at the meaning of the work

After analysing the context, form, process and mood:

What do you think the artist is saying? Why?

What message is the work/artist trying to communicate? Why?