Looking at a piece of art: some questions to ask

1. Describe it.
What kinds of things do you see in this painting? What else do you see?
What words would you use to describe this painting? What other words might we use?
How would you describe the lines in this picture? The shapes? The colors? What does this painting show?
Look at this painting for a moment. What observations can you make about it?
How would you describe this painting to a person who could not see it?
How would you describe the people in this picture? Are they like you or different?
How would you describe (the place depicted in) this painting?
Are there any obvious religious references or symbols present?

2. Relate it.
Does the artwork represent a belief system? Does it carry a message? What is do you take as its main communication message?
What does this painting remind you of?
What things do you recognize in this painting? What things seem new to you?
Comparing two artworks"
What are the similarities? What are some important differences?
How is this artwork from real life?
What interests you most about this work of art?

3. Analyze it.
Which objects seems closer to you? Further away?
What can you tell me about the colors in this painting?
What color is used the most in this painting?
What makes this painting look crowded?
What can you tell me about the person in this painting?
What can you tell me about how this person lived? How did you arrive at that idea? What is the religious position of the artist?
What do you think is the most important part of this picture?
How do you think the artist made this work?
What questions would you ask the artist about this work, if s/he were here?
What would a Christian make of the artwork? Could it be displayed in a Christian institution like a hospital or church foyer? Why/why not?

4. Interpret it.
What title would you give to this painting? What made you decide on that title?
What other titles could we give it?
What do you think is happening in this painting? What else could be happening?
What sounds would this painting make (if it could)?
What do you think is going on in this picture? How did you arrive at that idea?
What do you think this painting is about? How did you come up that idea?
Pretend you are inside this painting. What does it feel like?
What do you think this (object) was used for? How did you arrive at that idea?

Why do you suppose the artist made this painting? What makes you think that?

5. Evaluate it.
What do you think is good about this painting? What is not so good?
Do you think the person who painted this do a good or bad job? What makes you think so?
Does this artwork promote the gospel and a Biblical worldview or is it antagonistic? Is it fairly value neutral, simply decorative?
Why do you think other people should see this work of art?
What do you think other people would say about this work? Why do you think that?
What grade would you give the artist for this work? How did you arrive at that grade?
What would you do with this work if you owned it?
What do you think is worth remembering about this painting?