

Artwork Analysis Pro Forma

1. What is the title of the artwork?
2. Who is the artist?
3. What is the artwork's size?
4. Where is it located? In which gallery or museum?
5. What is your first impression?
6. What is the subject matter?
7. What is the mood of the work and how is this communicated?
8. What is the compositional structure of the work?
9. Describe the types of shapes seen and the depiction of space and depth.
10. Describe the use of colour.
11. Describe the use of pattern, repetition and movement.
12. Comment on the use of tone and texture.
13. What materials and tools have been used?
14. Is the nature of the artwork or technique used unique to the artist?
Explain why or why not.
15. What traditions and schools of work are evident as influences on this work?
16. Are there any symbols used in the work?
17. Does the artwork convey a spiritual message that is supportive of a Christian worldview? Explain your answer in the light of Philippians 4:8.
18. Research the lifestyle of the artist and explain whether you think the artist adhered to Christian values.
19. Could the artwork be displayed in the foyer of a Christian church, school or hospital? Why/why not?
20. Does the artwork convey ideas about alienation, the affects of sin and trying to live a life without the presence of the Spirit of Christ within?
21. If the artist was to become a person of faith, how might he/she modify their artwork? (Perhaps they wouldn't.)
22. Try to locate some art critic's comments on the work.

Further issues for discussion:

- Must art to be called “Christian” be propagandistic or contain overt Biblical images and symbols?
- Is an architect only “Christian” when she designs church buildings and a fashion designer “Christian” when they design robes for priests/ ministers and choristers?
- When does nudity in art (e.g. Adam and Eve in Eden), become pornography?
- Are traditional paintings of a naked Jesus at the breast of Mary offensive?
- Do Christian artists break the first commandment when they represent Jesus or God? What do Muslim artists do about representing Allah and Mohammed and Jewish artists with YHWH?
- “God is an artist—God is THE artist!” Explain this statement with evidence.
- What was the first manmade artwork recorded in the Bible?
- “Historically the church has been repressive of artists and anti art, even today they are amongst the first to promote censorship”. Respond to this assertion.
- "Traditional churches in poor countries are full of gold and silver as well as expensive artworks". These should be sold off and given to the oppressed." Relate this to Mt 26:9.
- Christian art is all patriarchal, male art for a male religion. Critique this assertion and argue the alternative.
- Why do some modern Protestant church meeting halls/chapels and have no artwork at all, except perhaps for some scripture.
- What did the iconoclasts believe and practise?