

Aesthetic Scan

Practice close observation and analysis of your chosen artist to help with distilling their work down to key visual characteristics you can incorporate into your self portrait bust.

Criteria: At least one full page typed, double spaced, include an image of your chosen artist

1) Describe the work. Take time to look very closely:

- a. Who created it? When? What media was used? What is the size? What imagery do you see, and where in the composition do you see it? How is the imagery rendered? Is it highly realistic, stylized, or completely non-objective (no imagery)? What colors, textures, shapes, lines and forms do you see? Describe each.... What kind of color? Intense, bright? Etc.

2) Analyze the Composition:

- b. Consider how the composition is arranged. Is there a focal point? How does your eye move around the composition? Is there a sense of visual rhythm? Is the movement still and slow, or fast? How is the composition balanced? Is there a sense of symmetry or asymmetry? Does it seem unified? Is there a sense of variety?

3) Interpret:

- a. Considering the subject matter, materials, and how the piece was created, what is it communicating? Is the piece a representation of reality (realism)? If so what is the artist communicating about their subject and environment?
- b. Is it expressing intense emotion? (expressionism) If so, what emotions is it expressing? How can you tell?
- c. Is it communicating a specific message? (Instrumentalism- art with a message) If so, what specific message is the artist communicating? What is the artists' perspective? What is your perspective?
- d. Is the work more about the formal qualities? (non-objective or 'abstract'- Formalism) Is the work about color? Line? Shape? Is there a lyrical or musical feel to the piece? Is it bold? Quiet?
- e. Was the work created for a specific function? If so does it work?

4) Judge the Work:

- a. Does the work successfully achieve what the artist intended? If it is a realistic rendering, is this achieved successfully? (just because you may not 'like' a specific type of art it doesn't mean the work is unsuccessful or poorly executed. It is necessary to understand the context in which it was created. Always read the artist statement!
- b. Does the work successfully grab your attention and evoke a response?
- c. Does it create more questions in your mind?