

Purposes for Creating Art Art Critique & Style

As **viewers**, what we perceive is affected by that for which we are looking.

As **artists**, we have certain beliefs about what art should be.
As **philosophers**, we develop theories that argue particular beliefs.

Beauty & Pleasure - Art is about beauty, pleasing the senses. Aesthetic beauty is disinterested pleasure and may include the desire to possess the object that evokes the pleasure. All others who perceive the same work of art can share this pleasure.

Pure belief expressed as: Good art is that which gives us the most pleasure. Only that which is beautiful can be called art.

Realism & Imitation - A work of art is like a mirror, imitating nature or some ideal form. It may be photographic in quality and appear real.

Pure belief expressed as: Good art is the most accurate imitation of nature or an ideal.

Expression - Art is about the expression of feelings, moods, and/or ideas in the content of the art piece or in the way the artist communicates with the selected media. Art is the expression of the artist's emotions.

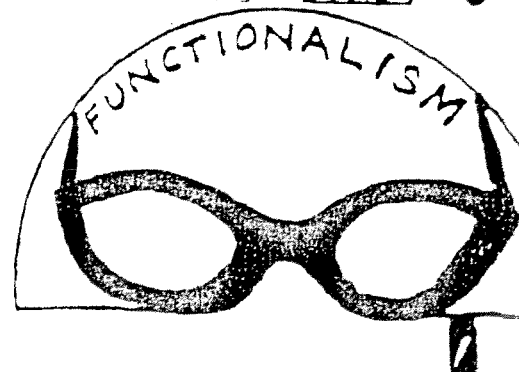
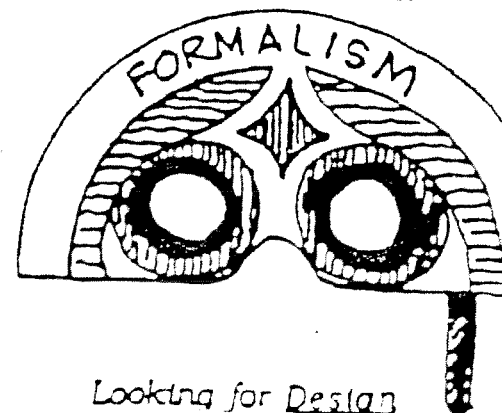
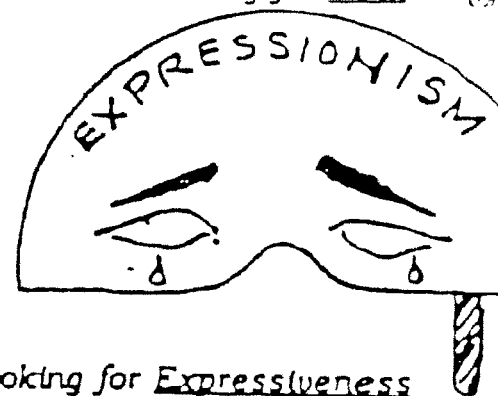
Pure belief expressed as: Good art successfully communicates the emotion the artist intended to express.

Formal Design - All objects that evoke aesthetic emotion in us share one quality - significant form. This can be defined as lines, shapes, colors, and other sensory properties and their formal relationships. Art is the systematic approach of expressing these sensory and formal arrangements in works of art.

Pure belief expressed as: Good art is a highly unified arrangement of lines, shapes, colors textures, and values.

Social Context & Function - Art cannot be considered in isolation from other areas of human experience. The value of art lies in its connections with other things, that is, and experience that is unified, intense, and complex. Good art is a means to some end.

Pure belief expressed as: Good art reflects its useful purpose -- whether religious, ceremonial, decorative, part of an historical record, or response to a social cause.



Name _____

ART - Looking and Learning

ART CRITICISM APPROACH

Learning from what is inside a work of art. The following 4 steps will help you dig deeper into the layers of meaning of each art object. This personal interaction with a work of art will make it more meaningful and memorable.

Description - *What do you see?* Discover Make and inventory of the subject matter and/or the elements of art.

Analysis - *How is this work organized?* **Organization of Composition** Determine how the work of art is put together: Describe how the principles of art have been used to arrange the elements of art.

Interpretation - *What is the artist trying to communicate?* **Content and Meaning** Identify the feelings, moods, and ideas communicated by the work of art. Make guesses supported by what you see in the work. Base your interpretation on the visual facts and clues you have collected in the first two steps.

Judgment - *What do you think of the work?* **Personal Decision** Make a personal decision about the degree of artistic merit of the work of art. Is the work of art successful or not? Look at the art based on the following art theories before making your judgment. Most art includes more than one of these theories. Use the theories to defend your judgment.

Imitationalism (Realistic Qualities)- A work of art is like a mirror, imitating nature or other subject matter. A work is successful if it looks like and reminds us of what we see in the real world.

Formalism (Design Qualities) - The most important thing about a work of art is the composition, the arrangement of the elements of art using the principles of design.

Emotionalism (Expressive Qualities) - The most important thing about a work of art is the vivid communication of moods, feelings, and ideas to the viewer.
