

Questions to Consider for Critique

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

Harmony - Is there relative commonality among the elements?

Variety - Is there diversity among the elements?

Balance - Symmetrical / Asymmetrical

Proportion - Relationships in scale (size relative to a constant standard or specific unit of measure)

Dominance - Focal Point / Emphasis

Movement - Is it fast? Slow? Still? Is there a sense of rhythm? Repetition of elements?

Economy - The distillation of the image to the basic essentials for clarity of presentation;
Gestalt: organized whole in experience - everything must be essential

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

LINE

Line quality: Is it expressive? Technical?

How do the properties of the line types effect the composition?

Horizontal/ Vertical: Give structure/stability; Relate to architecture

Diagonals: Create space

Curve: Biological reference - flowing movement

SHAPE

Is it organic or geometric? Is it biomorphic?

What is the figure/ground relationship? Use of positive/negative space? Is there ambiguity?

TEXTURE

Does it have a tactile sensibility? Does it evoke another material?

SPACE

Is it deep? Shallow? Flat? How does it relate to the picture plane?

What is the viewer's perspective? Eye level? From above? Below?

VALUE

Full range or high contrast? Does it create a sense of light or atmosphere?

COLOR

How would you describe the palette?

(primary, secondary, complimentary, split-complimentary, monochromatic, analogous, etc.)

What temperature is evoked? (warm, cool etc)

Is the saturation high or low? How does value function with color?

Is there psychological impact based on the palette?

The development of form involves media and techniques and uses the elements of design and the principles of organization to create space and visual unity.

FORMAT

Horizontal relates to landscape - vertical to the human form

SUBJECT VS CONTENT

Subject matter is the literal, visible image in a work while content includes the connotative, symbolic, and suggestive aspects of the image.

EMOTIVE CONTENT

Does the composition have a narrative quality? Does it convey an emotive atmosphere?