

Content, Form, Process, Mood and Context

How to Discuss Works of Art, and Design

CONTENT - Looking at the subject of the work

What is it? What is it about? What is happening?

What title has the artist given the work?

Does the title change the way we see the work?

Is the artwork a realistic depiction?

Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? If so, why?

What is the theme of the work?

What message does the work communicate?

Landscape, portrait, still life, journey, moment, memory, event, surreal, fantasy, abstract, message

FORM - Looking at the formal elements

What colours does the artist use? Why? How is the colour organised?

What kind of shapes can you find?

What kind of marks does the artist use?

What is the surface like?

What kind of textures can you see?

How big is the work?

Light, delicate, layered, strong, rough, dark, peaceful, dripped, textured, scale

PROCESS - How the work has been developed and made

What materials and tools have been used?

What evidence do you have of this?

How has the work been made?

Painted, woven, printed, drawn, cast, stitched, layered, collage

MOOD - Looking at the communication of moods and feelings

How does the work make you feel?

Why do you feel like this?

Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect your mood?

Quiet, contemplative, thoughtful, hopeful, peaceful, elated, joyful, celebratory, reflective

CONTEXT - Taking a wider view

When was it made? Where was it made? Who made it? Who was the work made for?

What do you know about the artist?

Does the work relate to the social or political history of the time?

Can you link the work to other arts of the period such as film, music or literature?

Does the work link to any other areas of knowledge?