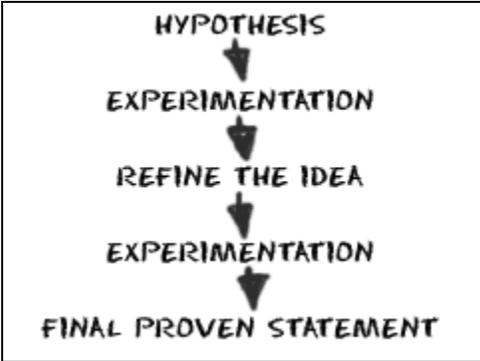
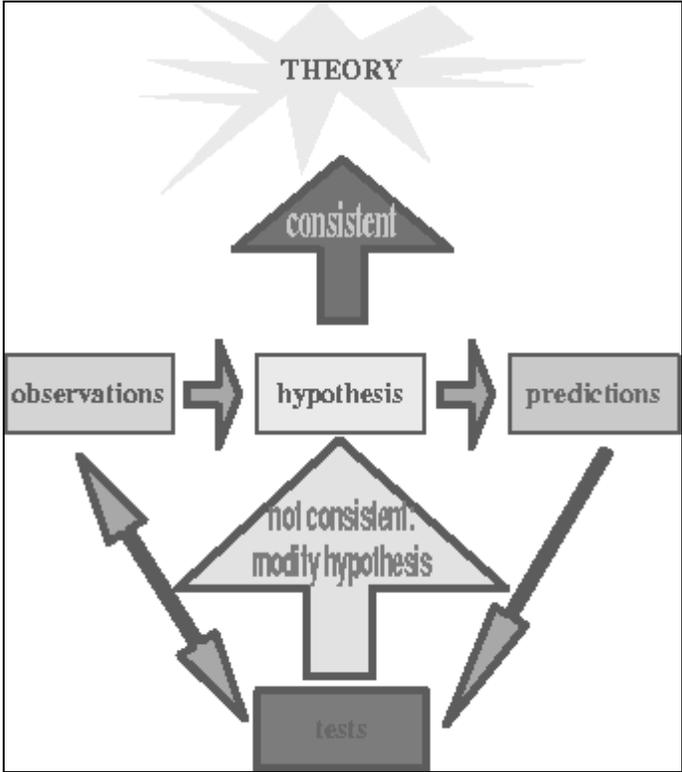


6th – 7th
Week 4: Unit 4

Art Criticism: A “Scientific Method” for Analyzing Art



http://www.biology4kids.com/files/studies_sciethod.html



http://physics.ucr.edu/~wudka/Physics7/Notes_www/node6.html

Figure 1.1: Flow diagram describing the scientific method.

UNIT INTRODUCTION

Unit Overview

This unit offers criteria and methods for judging works of art from both secular and Christian viewpoints.

Unit Objectives

The student will be able to:

- 1) Use appropriate guidelines for perceiving, interpreting and judging art.
- 2) Apply standards for judging art based on historically important art theories.
- 3) Research Christian artists on the Internet and use that research as the basis for the final artwork.
- 4) Incorporate the four steps of art criticism and the four categories of judgment into the creation of the final art project.

Unit Vocabulary

- ❖ Philosophy of art – beliefs about the reasons for, and the nature of, art; a general system of ideas for logical thinking about all aspects of art, especially the nature of art in Western culture; a theory of art
- ❖ Criteria for judging art – standards for judging art that can be stated to others and which are not just strong personal opinions or vague preferences
- ❖ Art as imitation – theory of art in which the major value of art is related to the skill of the artist in creating the illusion of reality
- ❖ Art as formal order – theory of art in which the major value of art is related to the way the design (as opposed to the subject matter) affects the viewer
- ❖ Art as expression – theory of art in which the major value of art is related to its power to bring about strong feelings in the viewer
- ❖ Art as instrumental – or art as functional, theory of art in which the major value of art is related to its practical use in life

- ❖ Subject matter – topic or idea represented in an art work, especially anything recognizable such as a landscape or animals
- ❖ Medium – the material and technique used by the artist to produce a work of art; also the liquid with which powdered pigments are mixed to make paint
- ❖ Masterpiece – the highest form of praise for an art work, usually used in reference to the Western canon of historical art

- ❖ Sensory qualities – particular qualities of line, color, shape, and other visual elements
- ❖ Technical qualities – visual qualities and effects created by an artist's special way of using a medium
- ❖ Formal qualities – structural qualities of an art work, usually described by referring to the principles of design
- ❖ Expressive qualities – the feelings, moods, and ideas communicated to the viewer through a work of art

PROJECT PROCEDURES

- 1) Review the four philosophies for judging art.
- 2) Familiarize yourself with the Art Criticism guidelines pages included in this unit.
- 3) Using handout IR 11 and the “Christian Artists on the Web” references:
 - a. Select one artwork by one artist on the Christian artists reference page
 - b. Gather as much information about the artist and the artwork, following the format on the IR 11 handout
- 4) Make a book using 9x12 sheets of newsprint folded in half for the pages and a sheet of 9x12 construction paper also folded in half for the cover
 - a. Use newsprint in groups of four (when folded in half makes a set of eight pages or one signature)
 - b. http://www.tappi.org/paperu/art_class/bookMaking.htm
 - c. Use the above website for advanced bookmaking tips and techniques
 - d. The simple method is to staple the center or punch holes in the center and thread string through the holes, leaving the ends on the outside spine and finishing with a bow.
- 5) Pages should include three of these:
 - a. questions and answers about the artist, written interview style,
 - b. an original poem about the artist,
 - c. an acrostic using the artist’s name and phrases stating what you learned about the artist,
 - d. a short biography about the artist,
 - e. your own sketches of the artist’s works
- 6) Also include:
 - a. A title relating to the artist’s work and an illustration for your cover
 - b. The critique of one of the artist’s works

ART CRITICISM STEPS

1) **Description** – What do you see?

Observation: Facts from the work: medium, dimensions, subject matter, elements of art, techniques

2) **Analysis** – How is the work planned?

Formal Qualities: Principles of design and other relationships within the work

3) **Interpretation** – What are the main expressive qualities?

Hypothesis: guess at meaning based on the above 2 steps using adjectives, analogies, cause and effect and connections to external ideas or events

4) **Judgment** – What are the strengths and weaknesses?

Criteria for Judging Art: what you are judging and why; and identify specific criteria (see below)

AESTHETICS or ART PHILOSOPHIES -- ART IS JUDGED AS:

Name	IMITATION	EXPRESSION	FORMAL ORDER	INSTRUMENTAL
About	Imitate what you see with accuracy and honesty	Respect for intense human feelings and originality	Respect for logical order and idealized forms people can invent	Emphasize the use of art in everyday life and communication
First Impression	Looks real	Expresses feelings	Beautiful, harmonious	Expresses message or has function
Design	Elements of art are natural, lifelike; planned around patterns, rhythms and forms seen in God-made nature or man-made environment	Elements of art are of exaggerated or unexpected proportions; whole design is dramatic or original and centers on definite feelings	Unified by invented or mathematical order; elements of art are of more perfect or idealized proportions than real life	Elements of art planned and proportioned to communicate the message of the work; whole design is useful and is part of the message of the work
Subject/Theme	Based on real events or observations; more realistic than abstract; honestly shown rather than idealized	Unique, dream-like or fantastic; originates from artist's desire to communicate strong feelings	Idealized or has spiritual quality unlike everyday, ordinary life; more abstract than realistic	Related to the life of a cultural group; important to many people's lives
Materials	Natural qualities of materials shows; techniques go with the mood rather than being noticed	Original or unexpected uses; techniques important to mood or feeling	Evidence of extreme care in use and finishing of work; skill mastery of techniques for deliberate intentions	Techniques for understanding message; practical and related to the function of the work
Functional or Decorative Art	Use or function seen in the form or design (form follows function)	Unusual function; combines several functions; unexpected design	Form is elegant, refined, dignified; design more important than practical use	Purpose is to communicate important ideas; design or decoration well-suited for purpose; not to fancy or plain

CHRISTIAN ARTISTS ON THE WEB

www.christcenteredart.com – Online Gallery of illustrators and fine artists

Ron DiCianni

Spiritual Warfare

The Cross

Never Alone

Thomas Blackshear

Forgiven

Watchers in the Night

C. Michael Dudash

He Shall Hear My Voice

www.michaelpodesta.com – Local graphic designer

Christmas Tree

Psalm 121

Light

Dove

Exodus

Inasmuch (man on bench)

Psalm 23

Behold

Trumpets

For as the Body

References

Chapman, L. (1992). Chapter 3, *Art: Images and Ideas*. Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, 47-61.

Chapman, L. (1994). Chapter 3, aesthetic perception and art criticism, *Art: Images and Ideas Teacher Resource Binder*. Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, IR10-12, Art Criticism handout.

Christ Centered Art Gallery. <http://www.christcenteredart.com>

Hobbs, J. & Salome, R. (1995). Chapter 1, Seeing, Wondering, Enjoying. *The Visual Experience*. (2nd ed.) Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, T24, T134, T228, 312-315.

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