

Looking at Art

Before you can begin to analyze and interpret you need to see. All too often we rush to find meaning in a work without taking the time to truly see. In the wise words of Yoda, "you must unlearn what you have learned." Slow down and look, without bias, without pretense.

Step 1: Look

Spend thirty seconds just looking. No conscious interpretation. No analysis. No evaluation. Just look.

Step 2: Look Closer

Look for the highlights (brightest colors or values in the work)? What's there?

Where are the shadows? What do you see there?

What's in the center?

What has been pushed to the edges?

What is the largest depiction in the work?

Take an inventory of easily identifiable elements of art.

- color
- line
- shape
- space
- value
- form
- texture

Step 3: Stand Back and look again

Has anything changed?

Where's the first place you looked? What do you see there?

Where do you look for the longest?