

Art History

Name:



Assignments

- ___/10 **The Arnolfini Portrait**
- ___/10 **The Ambassadors**
- ___/10 **La Grande Jatte**
- ___/10 **Guernica**

Current mark:

Vocabulary for art history

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Abstraction | an art movement that tries to communicate while using as little realism as possible |
| acrylic | paint where the colour is held together with a liquid plastic |
| ambassador | a person who represents a foreign country while living in another |
| anamorphic | something that has a distorted shape |
| arteries | the small tubes inside your body that blood flows through |
| Baroque | an art movement that focuses on ornate detail and drama |
| basilica | a kind of large public building often used as Roman churches |
| beheading | cutting off someone's head |
| bicultural | being part of two cultures |
| block printing | a technique for making prints in which a block is carved into before being inked up like a stamp |
| bouquet | an arrangement of flowers that you can carry or put in a vase |
| bull | a male cow |
| bustle | a part of a dress that uses wire and layers of cloth to appear to have a big butt |
| candle | a stick made of wax that can be lit on fire |
| cathedral | an important large stone church connected to the area supervised by a bishop |
| chancellor | the person who leads a government for a king or queen |
| chandelier | a decorative hanging light with branches for many lights or candles |
| chiaroscuro | a method of shading that uses shadows to make things look three dimensional |
| Chinese | coming from China |
| compass | a drawing tool used to make circles |
| Cubism | an art movement that used abstract geometric shapes |
| cypress | a kind of tall thin tree |
| Dada | an nonsensical and satirical art movement that responded to the horror of the First World war |
| discus | a heavy disc that is thrown in track and field games |
| earthenware | a kind of clay that is fired to a lower temperature and that needs to be glazed before becoming watertight |
| Egyptian | coming from Egypt |
| execution | following orders to kill a person |
| existential crisis | when a person is overwhelmed by questioning if they have made the right choices |

and had a meaningful life

Existentialism

a kind of philosophy that focuses on how a person's choices changes and develops their life

Expressionism

an art movement that focuses more on the feelings that were expressed than realism

factory

a large building in which people work to make many copies of the same thing

Fascism

a kind of government ruled by a dictator where people are not allowed to disagree

firing squad

a group of soldiers used to shoot and kill people who they have caught

forceps

a surgical tool used to grab or clamp something closed

found object

an artwork that is made by someone else instead of an artist

fresco

a kind of painting done quickly with watercolour onto wet plaster

Freudian psychology

a belief that people's actions are influenced by unconscious memories, thoughts, and (often sexual) urges

globe

a round, three dimensional map of the world

gold leaf

an extremely thin sheet of gold used for decoration

Greek

coming from Greece

Guernica

in town in Spain that was destroyed by German bombers during the Spanish Civil War

harmony

when the parts of something work well with each other

horse

a large kind of animal that can work hard and run fast

human nature

the characteristics that are shared by all humans

impasto

a technique where paint is used thickly to make a surface textured

Impressionism

an art movement that focused on the way colour and light change from moment to moment

indigenous

the people who originated in a particular place

maidservant

a woman or girl whose has a job helping a family at their home

manga

a Japanese style of comic book aimed at all ages

Medieval

from the middle ages, 476 - 1450

minaret

a tall thin tower with a balcony from which a person calls Muslims to prayer

Modernism

a 20th century art movement that focused on change and modifying traditional beliefs

momento mori

a Latin phrase that means a reminder of death

monk

a devoted religious person who prays and serves God and peace

monochrome

a colour scheme that only uses light and dark versions of a single colour or grey

mosaic

an artwork that is made up of small pieces of coloured glass or stone

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Napoleon | a French military commander and emperor |
| Neo-classicism | an art movement that imitates the style of ancient Greece and Rome |
| oud | a form of lute or mandolin that comes from Arab countries |
| parasol | an umbrella that is used to protect people from the sun |
| persistence | when something keeps on going |
| pharaoh | a king of ancient Egypt |
| photography | using a camera to take pictures |
| pieta | a popular subject for artworks that shows the Mary's compassion for Jesus after his death |
| pipe | something used to smoke tobacco |
| plinth | a tall box used to display things in a gallery or museum |
| pocket watch | a small circular clock that is carried inside your clothes |
| pointillism | drawing or painting with small dots or dashes |
| Post-Impressionism | the art movement after Impressionism that focused more on expression and social meaning |
| Renaissance | a period of time when Europe rediscovered their non-religious heritage after the middle ages |
| Roman | coming from Rome or the Roman Empire |
| Romanticism | an art movement that focuses on freedom and the power of thoughts and feelings |
| sextant | a tool that is used to measure the angle that something appears at from far away |
| sfumato | making the background appear smoky and blurry to create a sense of depth |
| shadism | a kind of racism that judges people according to the lightness or darkness of their skin |
| Shinto | a religious belief that focused on purity, harmony, nature, family, and humility |
| skull | the bones inside of a human head |
| stigmata | marks on Jesus' hands that come from being nailed to a cross |
| Surrealism | an art movement that focuses on using realism to show unusual or impossible things that are like puzzles about the hidden nature of things |
| sword | a long knife that was used for fighting a long time ago |
| terracotta | an unglazed reddish-brown earthenware clay |
| treachery | when your trust has been betrayed |
| uniform | matching clothes used to identify soldiers |
| urinal | a ceramic object in men's public washrooms used for peeing |



Name:

Art History

Jan van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Portrait*, 1434.

Looking at artworks begins with observation. Think of it as approaching each artwork as a mystery to be solved. What is going on? Why did the artist make this? What is it about? Like a detective, you will be looking for clues that will help you answer these kinds of questions this semester. Let's start by practicing our observational skills.

Please list what you see, including their location and appearance.

For example: There are a *pair of light brown wooden shoes* in the *bottom left corner*.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Art Analysis The Ambassadors

Name:

/10_a



Hans Holbein, *The Ambassadors*, 1533

1) **Observe:** Please list six things that you see:

-
-
-
-
-
-

___/3

½ pt for each thing observed

- 1) **Analyse:** What clues and hints about the meaning has the artist included in this artwork? What idea or feeling does the colour, style, or technique communicate?

For example: "The _____ means _____."

___/2 •

1 pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue •

- 2) **Interpret:** In full, what do you think the artist is trying to communicate? Please give a specific reason why you think this is so.

___/3

Full meaning
+ 1 reason

- 3) **Evaluate:** Did this artist do a good job of communicating it? Yes or no?

(In other words, Is this a good artwork?)

Please give a solid and thoughtful reason why this is so.

___/2

1pt for opinion
1pt for reason



Georges-Pierre Seurat, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, 1884–1886

1) **Observe:** Please list six things that you see:

-
-
-
-
-
-

___/3

*½ pt for each
thing observed*

- 2) **Analyse:** What clues and hints about the meaning has the artist included in this artwork? What idea or feeling does the colour, style, or technique communicate?

For example: "The _____ means _____."

___/2 •

1 pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue •

- 3) **Interpret:** In full, what do you think the artist is trying to communicate? Please give a specific reasons why you think this is so.

___/3

Full meaning
+ 1 reason

- 4) **Evaluate:** Did the artist do a good job of communicating it? (*In other words, Is this a good artwork?*) Please give a solid and thoughtful reason why this is so.

___/2

1pt for opinion
1pt each for a
reason



Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, 1937

When this painting was made, most people would have been aware that the small Spanish village of Guernica was bombed by Italian and German warplanes. The Pro-Fascist Spanish government believed the village contained anti-Fascist rebels, and asked Italy and Germany to help fight.

1) **Observe:** Please list six things that you see:

-
-
-
-
-
-

___/3

*½ pt for each
thing observed*

- 2) **Analyse:** What clues and hints about the meaning has the artist included in this artwork? What idea or feeling does the colour, style, or technique communicate?

For example: "The _____ means _____."

___/2 •

1 pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue

•

- 3) **Interpret:** In full, what do you think Picasso is trying to communicate? Please give a specific reason why you think this is so.

___/3

Full meaning
+ 1 reason

- 4) **Evaluate:** Did Picasso do a good job of communicating it? (*In other words, Is this a good artwork?*) Please give a solid and thoughtful reason why this is so.

___/2

1pt for opinion
1 pt for reason

