

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



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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.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Hans Holbein, *The Ambassadors*, 1533

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 •

½ pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue •

•

•

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

___/3

Full meaning
+ 2 reasons

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

___/2

1pt for opinion
½ pt each for each
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 •

½ pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue •

•

•

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

___/3

Full meaning
+ 2 reasons

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

___/2

1pt for opinion
½ pt each for each
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 •

½ pt per
visual
characteristic
or clue •

•

•

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

___/3

Full meaning
+ 2 reasons

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

___/2

1pt for opinion
½ pt each for each
reason

