



ART HISTORY

To look is one thing,

To see what you look at is another.

To understand what you see is a third,

To learn from what you understand is still something else:

To act on what you learn is all that matters. — Taoist saying

You use a mirror to see your face –You use a work of art to see your soul.— G.B. Shaw

The purpose of Art History is the discerning appreciation and enjoyment of art, from whatever time and place it may have come, by whatever hands it may have been made. The purpose of Fine Arts 134 and Fine Arts 135 is to help you acquire the knowledge and understanding you will need to make and support personal decisions about works of art. The process used in the class is active learning which involves critical thinking, discernment, aesthetic sensitivity, etc.

SEARCH STRATEGIES FOR GETTING INFORMATION FROM WORKS OF ART

STRATEGY	Art Criticism	Art History
Description	Information found <i>within</i> works of art What is in the work	Information <i>about</i> a work of art When, where, and by whom the work was done
Analysis	How the work is organized or put together	The unique features of the work or works
Interpretation	Determine the feelings, moods, or ideas communicated by the work	Determine how the artist was influenced by the world in which he or she lived and worked
Judgement	Make a decision about the artistic merit of the work	Make a decision about the work's importance in the history of art

OTHER IDEAS

Art is a *visual* experience—look at the works, slides, plates, etc.

Make it your own—think, reflect, discern, talk about it.

Deal with the *big* ideas and concepts—keep your mind open to a variety of interpretations; be creative with your imagination; invent ideas; invent solutions; daydream; question yourself.

Know that you are a unique, creative, imaginative, individual and there is never one way to respond to a work.

Explain concepts or ideas about a work of to someone not in the class; reflect on their responses; share your insights.

Internalize rather than memorize; use the ARC tutors to help sharpen your awareness and gain helpful suggestions about your thinking.

Read the text material before you come to class and review the text after to see if ideas are clear. Write down ideas, concepts, and words that you understand, as well as those you may not clearly comprehend.

Ask questions.