

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Gallery Critiques

**Name of Gallery:**

**Name(s) of Exhibition or Artist:**

**Date of Gallery Visit:**

**Time of Day of Gallery Visit:**

**Parent Signature with you on visit:**

Write a paragraph or two or three below about the 2D or 3D art you are observing. Things to consider when writing your gallery critique - The body of the paragraph **MUST** address some of the questions listed below. You might choose some specific pieces that stand out to you. Use direct references to the work. For example rather than saying "The painting has nice flowing color." which is a very vague sentence, you might write "The painting has nice flowing color. This is specifically noticeable on the left side of the painting where the red fades into orange and then yellow. These are all warm colors and blend well together." End your paragraph with a closing sentence that pulls everything together.

### **Things to look for and write about in viewing art:**

#### **Composition:**

How is the space organized?

- Is one main shape used to unite the composition? If so, what is it and what are its parameters within the composition?
- What is the center of attention and why?
- How is the composition balanced?
- Is it a symmetrical or an asymmetrical composition?
- Is there a background/foreground? If so, how has the artist created the illusion of deep and shallow space? If not, why not?

#### **Line:**

What use of line do you notice?

- Describe the kinds of lines that you see (sharp, fuzzy, thick, thin, curvilinear, jagged, vertical, diagonal, horizontal, straight etc.) and where they are located within the composition.

#### **Texture:**

What use of visual texture do you notice?

- Describe the use of texture (rough, smooth, shiny, dull, etc.) and where it is located within the composition.

#### **Color:**

What part does color play in the composition?

- Describe the use of color (bright, soft, dark, strong, dark etc.).
- Discuss color relationships that you notice (primary, secondary, warm colors, cool colors, complementary, neutrals).
- In what areas are these colors located?

### **Light and Dark:**

Is there any unusual emphasis of light or dark?

- What is the light source?

### **Subject Matter:**

What recognizable objects are discernable?

If there are none, what shapes can be described? (circles, triangles, rectangles, squares, hard-edged, soft edged, etc.)

Is rhythm or repetition part of the work? Explain.

### **Meaning:**

Does the title explain anything about the artist's intentions?

Did you notice any symbolic elements?

Is there any background context from the time the piece was created that would add insight to the meaning (politics of the era for example)?

Does it refer to other works from art history? If so, what is it referencing?

Is there any information about the artist's life or work available that explains the content?

What meaning did you get from this piece? Explain how you reached this conclusion.

If you found no meaning, explain why.

### **Purpose:**

Evaluate why you think the artist created this piece.

- Were they mainly interested in imitating what they saw?
- Were they mainly interested in expressing their feelings and emotions about what they saw?
- Were they mainly interested in exploring shape, line, color, texture, design and composition (what we call academic art)?
- Was it a combination of more than one of these?

Explain your answer.

### **Opinion:**

Finally, give your personal opinion of the work and back that up with specifics.

**Hints for a Quality Critique:** 1. Do not forget to proof read and check for spelling errors.

2. Always use "I" or third person statements as this is your opinion. Do not use "you" statements.

3. Make sure I can read your words clearly. If in doubt type your critique.

### **Why Am I Writing a Critique?**

1. We all have opinions and it is important that we understand how to have defensible ones rather than instinctive

reactions.

2. Critiques discuss the positive attributes as well as the areas of weakness of a work.
3. Critique other work helps you have an objective evaluation of your own work as well as others.
4. Allows you to enjoy and appreciate other work and deepen your appreciation for art.
5. Helps you gain an understanding of what makes something “good” or “bad” quality.