

The Feldman Method of Critique

A method of critically looking at works of art by Edmund Burke Feldman. Look carefully at the work of art, then follow the steps below in sequence. Try to avoid the interpretation and judgement stages until you move through the description and analysis stages. You never know how your opinion might change after looking closely at a work of art and considering all aspects of it.

DESCRIPTION: What do you see?

- Make a list of what you see in the work of art.
- There is no such thing as “too obvious” at this stage.
- What colors, shapes, objects do you see?
- Nothing is too large or too small.

ANALYSIS: How is the work of art put together?

- Consider the formal aspects of the work of art.
- What is the focal point?
- How are the elements of art and principles of design used in the work of art?
- How does the medium influence the work of art?
- How is the composition used to move your eye around the work of art?
- What is the style of the artwork? (realism, impressionism, surrealism, etc.)

INTERPRETATION: What do you think the artist is trying to say?

- How do the descriptions and analysis you have made so far help inform you what the intention of the artist is?
- What is the subject matter? How does that convey information to you about the work of art?
- How do the colors (or lack thereof) impact the feel of the artwork?
- What is the overall feel of the work of art based on the subject matter, composition, etc.?
- What clues in the artwork support your interpretation?
- Do research, talk to the artist or research the artist. What do they say the work of art is about?

JUDGEMENT: Is the work of art successful?

- What is your opinion of the work of art?
- Is the artist successful in conveying their message?
- Is their message supported by the imagery in the work of art?
- What is the quality and craftsmanship of the work of art?
- What is the creativity of the work of art?

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