

L o o k i n g a t t h e w o r k o f a r t i s t s , c r a f t s p e o p l e a n d d e s i g n e r s

This is a framework that can be used to analyse and evaluate the work of artists, craftspeople and designers, including your own work.

Consider the following:

F o r m

How has the work been arranged? Is this in keeping with its content? What kind of colour scheme has been employed? Is it harmonious or does it make use of contrasts? Is it subtle or vivid? Does one colour predominate or do two or more have equal significance? Is there a main overall shape or is there an interrelating sequence of shapes? Is the design of the work determined by use of recurring shapes, lines, rhythms, tones or forms? Does the work have variety or unity of texture? Does the work hold together as an overall entity or is it pleasing in parts but not as a whole?

C o n t e n t

What is the subject matter of this work, what is it about? Is the subject matter incidental or of importance? Is it a vehicle for the communication of social, religious, moral, economic or political concerns of either the artist or the client? Was the subject matter based on direct observation, or was it remembered, invented or imagined? Was it the intention to treat it representationally or has there been deliberate exaggeration, distortion or abstraction and if so, why? Is the content immediately apparent or are there hidden aspects alluded to through, for example, the use of symbol, metaphor or analogy?

P r o c e s s

How was the work made and what was it made with? What materials, tools, processes and techniques did the artist use? How might the artist have commenced the work and through what stages did it proceed to completion? Might the artist have made, and made use of, supporting studies, such as sketches, photographs, maquettes, collages and companion works? Do you think the work was executed rapidly or did it evolve slowly over a long period? What range and variety of skills must the artist have required in order to produce this work?

M o o d

Does the work affect me, the viewer, in any way? Does it capture or convey a mood, atmosphere or emotion which I have previously experienced? Does it capture and/or convey feelings about life and nature? Can I imagine what the artist's feelings were, or might have been, when producing this work? Is the work quiet or noisy, soothing or disturbing, happy or sad, relaxing or jarring in its mood? What are the qualities inherent in the work which cause it to so affect me?