**Formal (or Visual) Analysis Assignment**

**Formal Analysis Assignment**

**Objective:**

The objective of this assignment is to develop your skills in formal analysis by critically examining an artwork and presenting your findings to the class. This exercise will help you articulate visual observations and connect them with broader art historical contexts.

**Instructions:**

1. [**Sign-Up**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tYi2HsspPjomj1bdO_YPr6UttYn3RaFKym4n4d44ZEo/edit?usp=sharing)**:**
   * [Sign up](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tYi2HsspPjomj1bdO_YPr6UttYn3RaFKym4n4d44ZEo/edit?usp=sharing) for a week in which you will give your formal analysis presentation. Refer to the class schedule and select a week that works best for you.
2. **Select an Artwork:**
   * Choose an artwork either from the assigned readings for the week you have signed up for, or from the “Resource Collections” under “PDF Lectures” for that specific week.
   * Ensure that the artwork you select is relevant to the lecture topic for that week as outlined in the syllabus.
3. **Preparation:**
   * Carefully study the selected artwork, noting its formal elements such as composition, color, line, texture, space, and form.
   * Research the historical and cultural context of the artwork to provide a well-rounded analysis.
4. **Presentation:**
   * During the assigned week, share the selected artwork on your screen using the class’s virtual meeting platform.
   * Provide a detailed formal analysis of the image. Your analysis should cover:
     + **Description:** Provide a clear and concise description of the artwork, including its title, artist, date, medium, and dimensions.
     + **Composition:** Analyze the arrangement of visual elements within the artwork. Discuss the use of balance, symmetry, focal points, and spatial organization.
     + **Color:** Examine the use of color, including hue, saturation, and value. Discuss how color contributes to the overall effect of the artwork.
     + **Line:** Describe the types and qualities of lines used in the artwork. Consider their direction, thickness, and impact on the composition.
     + **Texture:** Discuss the surface quality of the artwork, whether real or implied. How does texture influence the viewer’s perception?
     + **Space:** Analyze the depiction of space within the artwork. Consider the use of perspective, depth, and the relationship between foreground and background.
     + **Form:** Examine the shapes and forms within the artwork. Discuss their arrangement and how they contribute to the overall composition.
     + **Context:** Briefly touch upon the historical and cultural context of the artwork to provide background information that supports your formal analysis.
5. **Duration:**
   * Your presentation should be informal and concise, lasting only a few minutes (approximately 5 minutes).
6. **Participation:**
   * Engage with your classmates’ presentations by providing constructive feedback and asking questions.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

* **Clarity and Organization:** The presentation is well-organized and clearly communicates the analysis.
* **Depth of Analysis:** The analysis demonstrates a thorough understanding of formal elements and their impact on the artwork.
* **Contextual Understanding:** The presentation includes relevant historical and cultural context to support the formal analysis.
* **Engagement:** The presenter engages with the audience and responds to questions or feedback effectively.
* **Use of Visual Aids:** The selected artwork is effectively shared on screen, and visual aids are used to enhance the presentation.

This assignment will help you develop your analytical skills and ability to communicate visual observations, which are essential in the study of art history.