**Final: Formal and Conceptual Analysis Paper**

**Objective:**

You will present a formal and conceptual analysis of a piece of artwork from an exhibition in the Durbin Gallery, a gallery downtown, or the Birmingham Museum of Art’s Contemporary Gallery or Third Space, or from something you find online from the links on Moodle under “Design/Art Sources” due to the coronavirus closures. Make sure it is a two dimensional piece. If you see something in person this semester you can use it, or you can find something from “Design/Art Sources” list on Moodle. Your paper should include a Visual Description, a Formal Analysis, and an Interpretation. Topics from *The Critique Handbook* can help in framing your interpretation. I want you to focus on a single artist and one of their pieces. If we were to do a presentation it would need to be five to eight minutes long. The length of your paper should cover the topics below.

**Getting Started:**

I suggest you start by visiting the gallery and looking around, or visiting the websites I list and looking at art. Find a piece you enjoy, this will make writing about it easier. The outline should include all the elements you want to address in the paper. The more information in the outline the better I can advise you. Outline due: November 9 by midnight uploaded to Moodle

**Formal Analysis and Visual Description:**

Analyze the composition using formal design principles. This is where you will demonstrate your mastery of the design vocabulary. The sections “Looking at a Painting/Sculpture Formally” will help in the analysis, pages 13-21 and 27-39. Describe what you see. Be specific, assume the reader has not seen the work and you need to create a mental image. Include the title, artist, and medium.

**Interpretation Topics:**

This is **your** interpretation. You need to support **your interpretation** based on your observations and formal qualities. Identify the elements that support your interpretation and take ownership of the art. The topics below can be used to frame your interpretation. You may need to research the artist and art movement to help in developing your understanding of the work. However, this should be a small portion of the presentation. I do not want a biography of the artist. I want to know about your experience.

* **Signification:** pages 41-49
* **Form as Content:** pages 50-54
* **Vehicle for Meaning:** pages 54-64

You will be using statements like this:

Because the artwork has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I believe it is saying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Because the artwork is made of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this tells me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My interpretation of the work is that the lines were drawing quickly, therefore I think the artist was interested in showing movement because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Tell me what you think and why.*

**Turn in your paper, double spaced and an image of the artwork by midnight on the date of your final, November 30th.** Crop the artwork so that it is the only thing that shows in the image, no background of the wall or surroundings.

**To help you I’ve added this checklist of what I will consider when grading:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** TYPED OR HANDWRITTEN topic outline turned in on November 9th on Moodle

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Outline should include all the elements you want to address in the presentation.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Use an artwork from an exhibition in the Durbin Gallery, a gallery downtown, or the Birmingham Museum of Art’s Contemporary Gallery or Third Space, or an online sites I give you .

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Focus on a single artist and one of their pieces.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** The paper should cover all the topics and should be long enough that it would take five to eight minutes to present orally.

**Formal Analysis and Visual Description:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Analyzed the composition using formal design principles. The sections “Looking at a Painting/Sculpture Formally” will help in the analysis, pages 13-21 and 27-39.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Demonstrated mastery of the design vocabulary.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Described what you to create a mental image.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  Included the title, artist, and medium.

**Interpretation Topics:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Used topics from *The Critique Handbook* can help in framing your interpretation.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  Supported YOUR interpretation based on your observations and formal qualities.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Identified the elements that support your interpretation and took ownership of the art.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** You may need to research the artist and art movement to help in developing your understanding of the work. However, this should be a small portion of the presentation. I do not want a biography of the artist. I want to know about your experience.