

Analyzing works of art often entails concurrent investigation of interrelated aspects of form, function, content, and context.

---

<b>To analyze form:</b>	Investigate component materials and how they create physical and visual elements in a work of art.  Use knowledge of design elements and principles to examine fundamental visual components and their relationship to the work in its entirety.
<b>To analyze function:</b>	Consider artist's intended use(s) for the work and actual use(s), which may change according to context.  <i>Keep in mind ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Functions may be for utility, intercession, decoration, communication, and/ or commemoration; they may be spiritual, social, political, and/or personally expressive.</li></ul>
<b>To analyze content:</b>	Explore the interacting, communicative elements of design, representation, and presentation.  <i>Keep in mind ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Content includes subject matter — visible imagery may involve formal depictions, representative depictions, and/or symbolic depictions.</li><li>▪ Content may be narrative, symbolic, spiritual, historical, mythological, supernatural, and/or propagandistic.</li></ul>
<b>To analyze context:</b>	Examine original and subsequent historical and cultural milieu of a work of art.  <i>Keep in mind ...</i> <p>Context includes information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the time, place, and culture in which a work of art was created, and when, where, and how subsequent audiences interacted with the work</li><li>▪ the artist's intended purpose for a work of art, the chosen site for the work, and subsequent locations</li><li>▪ modes of display including associated paraphernalia and multisensory stimuli</li><li>▪ characteristics of the artist and audiences (e.g., aesthetic, intellectual, religious, political, social, and economic)</li><li>▪ patronage, ownership of a work of art, and other power relationships</li><li>▪ audience response to a work of art</li></ul> <p>Contextual information may be provided through records, reports, religious chronicles, personal reflections, manifestos, academic publications, mass media, sociological data, cultural studies, geographic data, artifacts, narrative and/or performance, documentation, archaeology, and research.</p>

---