

## Visual/Formal Analysis

### **Medium/Materials (what the object is made of):**

How has the artist handled the substance that forms the object? Can you see tool marks of pencil, brush, chisel, etc.? Is the surface highly polished? Rough? Textured?

**Line:** Are lines emphasized? What kinds of line are used: curving, angular, descriptive, expressive? Did the artist use implied line rather than direct line? Is there a horizon line? Sight lines? Are there lines that connect different parts of the work?

**Size and Scale:** Is the object large or small? What is the relationship to human scale? What effect might this have on the viewer? What is the relative size of elements within the work? Is scale consistent or variable? Do different scales emphasize or deemphasize certain elements?

**Color:** How does the artist use color? What is the predominate color palette—is it limited, bright, dull? What is the overall value (warm, cool) and saturation? Is color naturalistic, expressive, arbitrary, complimentary, primary? Are colors repeated throughout the work, or are certain colors only in specific areas?

**Light:** Where is the lightest light? The darkest dark? (For paintings: where is the implied light source, and how can you tell? For sculpture: how does external light impact the work's surface?) Is there strong contrast? How does light quality alter your sense of the mood?

### **Composition (the arrangement of the elements):**

Is there a focal point? What does the artist emphasize? Is the composition crowded, varied, repetitious? If there are figures, how are they grouped or distributed?

**Implied Viewer:** Who is the implied viewer? Where is the viewer situated in relation to the work: high, low, eye level, etc.? Does the work seem only intended to be viewed up close or from a distance? Or does it ask to be felt and used? Are there signs of a viewer or user's interaction with it?

### **Space (What methods are used to create space—or lack of space within the work):**

How is space treated in the work—does it suggest deep, recessive space; shallow, stage-like space; ambiguous space? What is the relationship between figure and ground (positive and negative space)? Does the work use linear or atmospheric perspective? Is there one (or multiple) point(s) of view?

### **Plastic Arts—Sculpture, three-dimensional objects, buildings:**

How are mass, volume, and texture treated? How does the object relate to the space around it?

**How do FORM and CONTENT relate to each other?**