

Critique Checklist...

Part 1 – Things you might think about in a critique

- ❖ Start with your general impression and then you can move on to think about...
- ❖ What mood is the artist trying to create? Do all aspects of the work support this?
- ❖ Which design format is the work based on? What are the eye pathways?
- ❖ Consider the values used in the painting – if you were to simplify it to about 3 basic values – does this work as an effective composition? Is there a dominant value?
- ❖ Is there variety in the dominant shapes used? In the relative scale of these shapes?
- ❖ Are the “entry” and / or “exit” points in the painting?
- ❖ How are the Elements of Design used? (Line, Shape, Form, Value, Colour, Texture)
- ❖ How are the Principles of Design used? (Balance, Emphasis (or Dominance), Contrast, Unity (or Harmony), Movement, Rhythm)
- ❖ What is the Focal Point? Is it well located?
- ❖ How has the artist deployed the Picture Plane? What is the Point of View? Is it consistent?
- ❖ How do elements in the painting relate to each other? How do they relate to the perimeter of the painting?
- ❖ What is the dominant colour scheme? (Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary, Split Complementary, Triadic...)
- ❖ Would the use of colour be described as high or low key, warm or cool?
- ❖ If the painting intends to describe space in three dimensions, is the foreground, middle ground and background well organized? Does the perspective work?
- ❖ Consider the use of edges – is there variety there? Think about lost / found edges...
- ❖ Is there a varied level of detail?
- ❖ Is the light source used effectively?
- ❖ Would the work benefit from careful cropping?

Part 2 – Tips for structuring a critique

- ❖ Pick out a few of things to talk about, you need not discuss every aspect of the work
- ❖ Try not to be vague
- ❖ Include positive comments as well as suggestions
- ❖ Think of the process as one of supporting each to grow