

Final Self-Analysis for Advanced Painting

Do one analysis for each painting unless you have a series, in which case you do one analysis for the series. Address each of the formal elements below including how these elements support the content, the meaning you intended (or not).

One way of analyzing anything is by separating the whole into parts in order to ultimately better understand the whole. When analyzing a work of art, in this case a painting, fundamental questions can be asked about those parts in order to gain an understanding of the piece. Each of you will write an analysis of your work done in class before the final critique. The sooner you write it the sooner it will help you with understanding what you've done.

The list below constitutes some conceptual and formal elements that, taken together create the meaning of the painting. For your written analysis you will want to discuss these topics:

- *Subject* - What is the topic? What is happening in the painting? What does the theme suggest or remind the viewer of? Are there humans in the painting? Are they at ease, fearful, or dwarfed by nature? What is their relation to the horizon and the sky? Is the sky clouded, stormy? Clear, bright? Is that forest inviting and nurturing or dark and threatening? Are there artificial objects in the scene?

- *Style* - What is the style of painting and what does that style suggest about your point of view or place in time? Did you look at the work of another artist to guide you? If so, what does smooth brushwork mean? What does gestural brushwork mean? These styles are tied to time periods in art and to meaning.

- *Color* - What mood do the colors evoke? What do certain colors traditionally represent? Are the colors imitative or expressive? Are they bold, natural, warm, cool? How do they affect the mood of the painting.

- *Line* - Are the lines definitive and hard or are they irregular and indistinct? Do the objects blend in with their background or do they stand out off the canvas? Can you even see lines or are they implied?

- *Light* - What is the effect of light in the painting? Does it illuminate a scene or character in the painting, or does it shadow? Does the light (dark) unite or divide the a painting?

_ *Other Elements to discuss* - depth/space—have you used linear perspective or is the painting flat?

What medium is used? What is the shape of the canvas? And what is the size? How do these things affect the meaning of your piece?

_ *Content (or meaning)*- discuss the meaning of the piece. How do these formal elements used in the painting support the meaning? Even if you have a painting (like a portrait) and it doesn't seem to have meaning, you can talk about how you used color, brushwork, background, etc.

Your analysis should be in an in-depth study. It does not need to include all answers to all questions but make sure you discuss each one relating to your work. Write at least 2 pages total, no larger than 12 point type and 1.5 line spacing.