HOW TO VIEW ART WITH A CRITICAL EYE

DESCRIBE!

Try to discover as much as you can about the artwork. Think like a detective! Who made it? How? With what?

Are things in the work that you recognize? People? Objects? Activities?

What kinds of colors, shapes and lines?

What is the first thing you noticed?

INTERPRET!

Try to explain what this artwork means. Always try to give reasons for your interpretation.

What mood or feeling seems to be expressed in this artwork?

Does it seem quiet? happy? silly? serious?
Does it seem frightening? powerful? sad?
Is it dream-like? welcoming? energetic?

Use adjectives to describe how the work makes you feel.

EVALUATE!

Tell how the artwork is important or special. This is where you formulate an opinion of the artwork, based upon your description and interpretation. Ask yourself the following questions:

What do you see in the artwork that gets your attention? Colors? Shapes? Materials?

Is the artwork important or special because it reminds you of something or someone?

Is the artwork importance of special because of what it means or how it makes you feel?

Would you like others to see this artwork? Who? Why?