

# Vocabulary

**Aesthetics:** A branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of beauty, art, and taste and with the creation and appreciation of beauty ([www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com)).

**Art Appreciation:** The introduction of basic principles of visual literacy -- especially the means to analyzing form without reference to subject matter, symbolism or historical context -- to general audiences for the purpose of enhancing their enjoyment of works of art ([www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com)).

**Art Conservator:** A person who applies science to the technical study to the preservation and treatment of art objects. A professional art conservator should be consulted about the display, storage, and preservation of special objects; about the preservation of public art and historic buildings and sites; about disaster planning for areas prone to earthquakes, fires, or floods; when the surface of an object is either flaking, fading or discoloring; when an object is infested with insects or mold; before taking a textile or work on paper from its frame; and before doing an amateur cleaning or restoration ([www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com)).

**Art Critic:** A person who describes, analyzes, interprets, evaluates, and expresses judgments of the merits, faults and value of artworks. One who produces criticism, who expresses a reasoned opinion on any matter especially, involving a judgment of its value, truth, righteousness, beauty, or technique and who engages often professionally in the analysis, evaluation, or appreciation of works of art or artistic performances.

**Description:** A statement creating a mental image of something experienced, or the act of making such a statement. Not to be confused with interpretation, description is identifying the literal qualities or realistic presentation of subject matter, along with the elements of art found in a work -- it demands only the facts of what can be seen in a work. When two or more works can be described by comparing them to each other.

**Analysis:** A stage in art criticism, description of an artwork, and preceding its interpretation and judgment, in which one focuses on the relationships between the elements of art and principles of design in hopes of gaining an understanding of the work's design qualities, or how well the work is ordered, or put together. Analysis represents the fourth level of learning outcomes in the cognitive domain -- the level of understanding just beyond comprehension and application because they require an understanding of both the content and the structural form of the material. Analysis may include the identification of the parts, analysis of the relationships between parts, and recognition of the organizational principles involved.

**Interpretation:** A stage in the work of art criticism following the description and analysis of an artwork, in which one identifies the work's expressive qualities, or the meaning, or the mood, or idea communicated to the viewer. A work of art can be very complicated and may be interpreted in different ways by different people. In art criticism, one's interpretation of a work is personal, based upon the information one has gathered from the work. In art history, interpretation identifies the influences of time and place on the artist: images of the same subject, created at different times or in different locations may

have little in common. Their differences reflect the contrasting personal and cultural traditions and value of each artist.

**Judgement:** The carefully thought-out decision making process through which one makes a personal decision about an artwork's success or lack of success (not like or dislike), preparing reasons to support this judgment. In art history, after describing, analyzing and interpreting a work, one comes to thoughtful conclusions about the work's historical significance ([www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com)).

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.