

Guide for Critically Evaluating (critiquing) Paintings

Artist Name: _____

Art Title: _____

Medium: _____

Drawing:

- Clumsy
- Skilled
- Unskilled
- Convincing
- Needs development
- _____
- _____

Surface:

- Textured
- Chaotic
- Inviting
- Smooth
- Sensuous
- _____
- _____

Line:

- Fluid
- Strong
- Delicate
- Color
- Always Black
- Overdone
- Weak
- Expressive
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Concept or Idea:

- Originality Hi
- Originality Lo
- Originality Med
- Traditional
- Derivative of: Artist _____
- Derivative of: Art Movement _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Paint Application:

- Skillful
- Appropriate to the Idea
- Nice Variety
- Powerful Strokes
- Delicate Strokes
- Too Thin
- Too Thick
- Delicate Glazing
- Impasto
- Overworked
- Under-worked
- _____
- _____

Light and Dark Factor (Contrast):

- Supports overall concept
- Indifferent to overall concept
- Too Much contrast
- Too Little contrast
- Good range of light and dark values

Line Quality:

- Overdone
- Strong
- Always black
- Over active
- Expressive
- Weak
- Intense color

Expression Factor:

- Intense
- Unbelievable
- _____
- Weak
- Strong
- _____
- Believable
- Forceful
- _____

Medium Usage:

- Appropriate
- I would like to see it created in: _____
- _____
- Inappropriate
- Skilled technique
- _____
- Too limited

Scale of Support (canvas, paper, board, etc.):

- Size of support: Appropriate Inappropriate
- Proportions of support: Appropriate Inappropriate
- I would like to see this idea sized: _____

Scale of Forms in Composition:

- Appropriate
- Dramatic contrast in size
- Too large
- Sizes too consistent
- Too small
- I would like to see the forms sized: _____

Format:

- Appropriate
- Original
- Daring, but does not help the idea
- Inappropriate
- Daring and helps the idea
- Fights idea

Balance and Composition:

- Feels: Right Wrong
- Original Ordinary Imaginative
- Gutsy Good use of color to create balance
- Size and arrangement of forms creates good balance.
- Good illusion of space and depth
- The composition moves your eye effectively through painting
- _____ _____ _____

Subject Matter:

- Original Imaginative Daring
- Unique Over sweet Mundane
- Challenging

Content: (that which communicates the subject or idea)

- Outrageous Contrived Romantic
- Whimsical Unusual
- Find your own words to describe the content:
- _____ _____ _____

Historic Precedent:

I associate the work with; list movement as well as specific artists:

Interest Factor:

- Compels attention Not very exciting Exciting
- Strange Fades over time
- Holds up over time _____ _____

Title:

- Good
- Bad
- Appropriate
- Helps in relating to work
- _____

Overall Reaction:

- Beautiful
- Handsome
- Nostalgic
- Overly Nostalgic
- Obvious
- Elegant
- Indifferent
- Wonderful
- Memorable
- Shows wonderful potential, needs to be explored further
- Wonderful aesthetic experience
- _____
- _____

Note: This painting evaluation tool was created by **Robert Kaupelis** and generously provided to me for teaching. It has been modified from the original draft for use in the introductory and intermediate painting courses at Westchester Community College.
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