Module 4: Artistic Principles

Discussion Question #7: Objective Description of Artistic Principles. This discussion forum is identical to DF #6, except we are substituting the artistic principles for the elements.

Objective Description and Subjective Analysis: Using any of the External Links, find two works of art: the first one two-dimensional, the second one three-dimensional. For each one, write four sentences describing the artistic principles present in the work. Do not refer to any subject matter. Be objective in your descriptions. An example might be; “The work makes an abundant use of pattern,” or “this work uses asymmetric balance in its composition”.

Then, for each work, write one sentence that describes your subjective reaction. An example might be “The artwork has a dynamic feel to it” or “The scale in this work disorients me”.

Worksheet #4: Using the links below, describe the two compositions and your reaction to each of them.

- What kind of visual balance is used in each?
- How does the balance affect the composition?
- Explain how effective each work is in terms of unity and variety. Example: “there is variety in the colors used, but they are mostly analogous to each other, and that creates a unity in the overall effect”. Be specific and include any links or images that help support your answers.

Image 1: John Singleton Copley’s Watson and the Shark.
Image 2: Judy Pfaff’s Untitled.

Your worksheet should be at least two pages, double-spaced.

Assignment #3: Compare and Contrast. Using the External Links as resources, choose two works of art from two different cultures. They can be two or three-dimensional, or one of each. Compare and contrast the two works, using the artistic principles you’ve learned about in this module. For example:

- How do the compositions compare to each other?
- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- What are the artistic principles being used in each (repetition, rhythm, scale, differences in visual balance, etc.)? You can refer to the subject matter in each work, but focus on objective comparisons.