Questions Art Historians Ask…

1. How old is it?
2. What is it's style?
3. What is the subject?
4. Who made it?
5. Who paid for it?

Words Art Historians Use…

1. Form and Composition
2. Material and Technique
3. Line
4. Color
5. Texture
6. Space, Mass, and Volume
7. Perspective and Foreshortening
8. Proportion and Scale
9. Carving and Casting
10. Relief Sculpture
11. Architectural Drawings

-Additive light

Sunlight or natural light

-Additive Sculptural technique

The artist builds up (models) the forms, usually in clay around the framework, or armature. Used different molds for different body parts and then welded them together (joined them by heating).

-Collage

Mixed-media technique

-Color intensity

the brightness or dullness of a hue; a pure hue (color) is called a high-intensity color and dulled hues are called a low-intensity color

-Color value

the brightness or dullness of a hue

-Complementary colors

Represent the pairing of a primary color & the secondary color created from mixing the two other primary colors (red & green; yellow & purple; blue & orange). They "complement", or complete, each other, one absorbing colors the other reflects.

-Composition

Refers to how an artist composes (organizes) forms in an artwork, either by placing shapes on a flat surface or by arranging forms in space.

-Contour line

The perceived line that marks

the border of an object in space. When a continuous line defines an object's outer shape.

-Cutaway

Combines in a single drawing an exterior view with an interior view of part of a building.

-Foreshortening

Kind of perspective that produces the illusion that one part of the body is farther away than another, even though all the forms are on the same surface.

-Form

An object's shape and structure. It can be 1) two dimensions (for example, a figure painted on a canvas) 2)three dimensions (for example, statue carved from a marble block).

-Hierarchy of scale

A system of representation that expresses a person's importance by the size of his or her representation in a work of art

-Homage to the Square

Albers, Bauhaus, 1954. Homage to square interactions of colors and relationship between them in different context. He moved to the US after WWII. Color contrasts and played with perception because of receding and advancing planes. He believed that art originates in "the discrepancy btw physical fact & physical effect"

-Hue

A particular shade of a given color

-Juxtaposition

Placement of two things closely together to emphasize comparisons or contrasts

-Mass & Volume

Describe three-dimensional object and space. In both architecture and sculpture, mass is the bulk, density and weight of matter in space. Volume is the space that mass organizes, divides, or encloses. They describe the forms of matter of which it is composed and the space immediately around the work and interacting with it

-Outline

The edge of a shape or figure

depicted by an actual line drawn or

painted on the surface.

-Perspective

One of the most important pictorial devices for organizing forms in space. Various types of perspective can be used to create an illusion of depth or space on a two-dimensional surface. Some perspective devices: the reduction of figure size, the convergence of diagonal lines, and the blurring of distant forms.

-Pigment

A colored chemical compound that absorbs light, producing color.

-A plan

A map of a floor, shows the placement of a structure's masses and, therefore, the spaces they circumscribe and enclose.

-Primary colors

Red, yellow, Blue

-Proportion

It concerns the realtionship (in terms of size) of the pertsof persons, buildings, or objects. It implies using a module, basic unit measure.

-Relief sculpture

Sculpture that projects from a flat background

-Represented texture

When painters depict an object having a certain texture even though the pigment is the true texture.

-Saturation

The purity of a color, its brightness or dullness

-Secondary colors

Resulting colors from mixing pairs of primaries (orange: red & yellow, purple: red & blue, green: yellow & blue)

-A section

A kind of vertical plan, depicts the placement of a structure's masses as if someone cut through the building along a plane.

Lateral section: shows a theoretical slice across a structure's width.

Longitudinal section: the one that cuts through a building's length.

-Space

The bounded or boundless "container" of objects

Can be real three-dimensional space occupied by a statue or a vase or contained within a room. Or, it can be illusionistic, when painters depict an image (or illusion) of the three-dimensional spatial world on a two-dimensional surface

-Spectrum

The sum of all the wavelengths composes visible spectrum.

-Statues and Busts

Busts are head, shoulders, and chest. Both exist independent of any architectural frame or setting. Freestanding sculptures, or sculptures in the round.

-Subtractive Light

The light reflected from pigments and objects.

-Subtractive Sculptural technique

Removing material to create sculpture. For example, carving. The final form is a reduction of the original mass of a block of stone, a piece of wood, or another material. All sculptors of wood or stone cut away (subtract) "excess material."

-Technique

The processes artist employ, such as applying paint to canvas with a brush, and the distinctive, personal ways they handle materials.

-Texture

Refers to the quality of a surface, such as rough or shiny.

-Tonality

The degree of lightness or darkness

-True texture

The tactile quality of the surface; we can experience through touch.

NEW WORDS TO BE SORTED BELOW

Balance

symmetrical asymmetrical, radial

Components of color

Hue, Value, Intensity/Chroma

Content

It will often tell a story. Through direct observation statements can be made regarding the meaning of artwork. However be aware that you are looking at the artwork through the eyes of a person living in the 21st century. Research the facts to ascertain the meaning and the story within the context of the time in which it was created.

Hierarchic Scale

The enlargement of the subject matter to show social importance

Iconography

Meaning the "writing of Images" it refers to both the subject and the content. It presents signs and symbols that infer meaning.

Line

It is a moving point, a path in space. It can be Actual or Implied. It can define Shape.

4 types , vertical, horizontal, diagonal, curvilinear

Mass

the weight of solid matter

Material and Technique

These two terms refer to the medium the artists uses and how they use it to create art.

Perspective

The Illusion of depth on a 2d space or surface.

Proportion

the relationship of sizes

Space

In the visual arts it can be experienced as positive and negative.

Subject

Architecture/Painting/Sculpture

Pictorial Subjects can be religious, historical, political, mythological, and numerous others.

Texture

It creates an actual or implied tactile sensation

Volume

The space around matter or inside matter, this term is associated with architecture.

Warm Colors / Cool Colors

Red, Orange, Yellow / Purple,Blue, Green