

Colors, Shapes, Lines

What are they like? What do they do?
A Routine for Exploring the Formal Qualities of Art

1. Take a minute to look at the artwork. Let your eyes wander over it freely. What do you see? Take a few observations from students and then move on to the next step.
2. Observe and describe the colors, shapes, and lines in detail. Make 3 columns.

COLORS <i>What colors do you see? Describe them.</i>	SHAPES <i>What kinds of shapes do you see? Describe them.</i>	LINES <i>What kinds of lines do you see? Describe them.</i>

- 3.
4. Choose a kind of color, shape, or line that you listed.
 - * How does it contribute to the artwork overall? (How does it help the artwork "work?") Consider:
 - How does it contribute to how the artwork feels?
 - How does it contribute to the mood of the artwork?
 - How does it contribute to how the artwork looks?
 - How does it contribute to the story the artwork tells?
 - How does it contribute to the ideas in the artwork?
 - * Do this with at least two elements. They can be chosen from any column.
5. What new ideas do you have about the artwork? What do you see now that you didn't see before?