VIRTUAL SCHOOL VICTORIA

The Structural Lens

This lens helps you to analyse and interpret an artwork and how it relates to the artist, audience and world. This is done through examination of the art **elements and principles**, use of **materials, techniques and processes**, the **stylistic qualities**, the **symbolism**, and the **context** in which the artist works and in which the artwork is presented. The Structural Lens can help inform the other Interpretive Lenses too.

Through Responding: you decode artworks by reading the relationships between specific signs, symbols and conventions in visual language, that are used to convey information and ideas in artworks in relation to the context in which they were created and then presented.

Through Making; you focus on the organisation and placement of visual components in an artwork and explore the use of symbols and art conventions, as well as how the art elements and principles, art materials, techniques and processes, and context communicate ideas or meaning.

You will need to consider the following when applying the Structural Lens:

Elements and principles

- How the artist has applied, and to what effect, the art **elements** of: line, colour, tone, texture, shape, form, sound, light and time.
- How the artist has applied, and to what effect, the art **principles** of: emphasis (focal point), balance, movement, unity, variety, contrast, rhythm, repetition (pattern), scale, proportion and space.
- How do the elements and principles contribute to the ideas and meaning of the artwork for different audiences in different contexts?

Materials, techniques and processes

- What materials, techniques and processes have been used?
- How do these change how you interpret the artwork?
- Is this interpretation informed by the inherent qualities of the materials or their selection and application?
- Are 21st-century media and technologies or approaches to making and presenting art used in the artwork?
- How is the interpretation of the artwork shaped by the artist's use of these?

Stylistic qualities

- What is the style of the artwork and how does it contribute to its meaning(s)?
- How does the artwork relate to other artworks in a similar Style or from the same philosophical, ideological, social, historical or cultural context?
- Do any of the following influence meaning:
  - presentation of the artwork
  - context in which the artwork is presented (i.e. how might the artwork be interpreted in different contexts by different audiences?)
  - placement or location of the artwork in a setting other than the intended setting
  - compositional arrangement of subject matter
  - symbolism?

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