



How to Analyse and Learn from Famous Artists

KS2 ART & DESIGN

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 4 min read

What Does It Mean to Analyse Art?

When you **analyse** a piece of art, you're like a detective looking for clues. Instead of solving a mystery, you're discovering why an artist made choices about colour, shape, and what the artwork shows. Famous artists like **Pablo Picasso**, **Frida Kahlo**, and **Vincent van Gogh** all have amazing stories hidden in their paintings.

Think of it like watching your favourite film — you don't just enjoy it, you ask yourself: why did the director choose this music? Why is this character wearing those clothes? What feeling are they trying to give me?

The Questions to Ask About Artwork

Start by asking simple questions. **What do you see?** Look at the colours, shapes, and objects. Is it bright and cheerful or dark and sad? **Who made it and when?** Learning about when **Leonardo da Vinci** painted or when **Banksy** created street art helps you understand what was happening in the world at that time. **What technique did they use?** Did they paint with thick brushstrokes or tiny careful lines? Did they use lots of detail or keep it simple?

Why did they make it? Was the artist telling a story, showing how they felt, or teaching people something? Understanding the **purpose** and **message** helps you appreciate the work much more deeply.

Think of it like reading a book — you enjoy the story, but when you ask why the author chose certain words or created a particular character, you understand it better and like it even more.

Learning Techniques from the Masters

Famous artists developed special **skills** and **methods** you can copy. If you love how **Claude Monet** painted light bouncing off water, try his technique of using dabs of

colour side by side. If **Andy Warhol's** pop art style excites you with its bright colours and repeated patterns, experiment with that idea in your own work.

Keep a **sketchbook** where you practise techniques from artists you admire. Draw the same scene the way different artists might draw it. This helps your brain understand their choices and makes you a better artist too.

Make It Personal

The most important part is connecting with the artwork. What feeling does it give you? Does it remind you of something? Does it make you want to create something similar? When you analyse famous artists' work with curiosity and respect, you're not just learning art history — you're discovering tools and ideas you can use to express yourself through your own creations.