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# How to Describe and Judge a Piece of Art

KS2 ART & DESIGN

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## What Does It Mean to Judge Art?

When we **judge** or **evaluate** a piece of art, we're not saying whether it's "good" or "bad" like marking a test. Instead, we're looking carefully at what the artist created and thinking about **why** they made it that way. It's like being a detective, but for pictures, sculptures, or anything creative.

Every person sees art differently, and that's the wonderful thing about it. Your opinion matters, even if it's different from someone else's. But to have a really **thoughtful** opinion, we need to know what to look for.

## Step 1: Describe What You See

Before you judge anything, **describe** it. Tell someone what's actually there.

Think of it like describing a photo to a friend who can't see it yet. You'd mention the **colours**, the people or things in it, and what they're doing.

Look for: **colours** (bright? dark? warm? cool?), **shapes** (circles, squares, triangles?), **lines** (thick, thin, wavy, straight?), and **texture** (does it look smooth, rough, bumpy?).

## Step 2: Ask Yourself Questions

Now dig deeper. Ask: What **mood** does this create? Does it feel happy, sad, angry, peaceful, or mysterious? What **materials** did the artist use—paint, pencil, clay, metal? Why might they have chosen those?

Think about the **composition**—that means how things are arranged on the canvas or in the space. Is everything in the middle, or pushed to one side? Is that choice interesting?

## Step 3: Consider the Artist's Choices

Every mark an artist makes is a **choice**. If they used only red and black, that's a choice. If they painted huge, bold shapes, that's a choice. If the picture is messy and

chaotic, that's deliberate. Ask yourself: **What feeling or message might they be trying to share?** Does the artwork succeed at doing that?

Think of it like a film director choosing music for a scary scene. Creepy music makes you nervous, even though the picture alone might not be scary. Artists do the same with colours and shapes.

## **Step 4: Give Your Judgment**

Now you can share your opinion. Did this artwork make you think or feel something? Did the artist's choices work well together? Be **specific**—don't just say "I like it." Say why: "I like it because the bright colours make me feel energetic," or "I don't like it because it's confusing." That's a real judgment, not just a feeling.

Remember: **There is no one right answer.** Two people can judge the same artwork very differently, and both can be correct. What matters is that you've looked carefully and thought deeply.