

All Group Critique

These critiques are designed to provide you with peer feedback on your artwork and to help all of us refine our visual analysis skills. It is important to be candid in these discussions. This is how artists develop their communication and technical skills – by gathering honest, constructive feedback from others about the work.

Identify two members of the group who will act as facilitators for the process. The facilitators' task will be to help the artist avoid saying too much about the work before the reviewers have had a chance to discuss the work in detail. Facilitators should also be time-keepers (in groups of 6 you'll have about 20- 25 minutes per artist). Try to be sure everyone in the group is heard. Should a discussion wane, it is the facilitators' responsibility to ask questions to encourage more feedback from the group.

The Process

[1] The artist states the topic s/he is researching and may summarize the research, indicating the primary ideas that have emerged from the research. **THE ARTIST DOES NOT DISCUSS OR DEFEND THE ART WORK YET.**

[2] Reviewers respond to the work. The artist should be taking notes on the comments made by reviewers. Here are some things to address/consider:

AVOID GENERAL COMMENTS SUCH AS "I LIKE IT". While these comments are affirming, they do not indicate to the artist WHAT about the art you like, and therefore s/he won't know *what*, specifically s/he did well. Always tie comments, positive or negative, to formal elements in the work.

Conduct a formal analysis. Discuss shape, form, color, line quality, composition, use of the medium (or blending of media in the case of mixed media works, scale/size).

Indicate your perceived reading of the work. This may include emotive tone of the work, art historical context, other visual references (such as biological illustration or graphic novels)

Consider how the work addresses the research as you understand it. Are the links between the research and the art clear? Are they somewhat indirect or metaphorical?

What is working effectively already in the work? What would bear refinement? How is the work reading or working in concert with the research?

Address the artist's statement draft only after discussing the work thoroughly. Is it articulate? Is it informative? Will it support the viewers' appreciation of the work?

[3] Only after this discussion should the artist discuss the work. Avoid apologies and defenses for the work. Focus on answering questions or responding to points made during the review.

[4] Additional discussion among the group members may follow, with the artist involved in the discussion.