IB Critical Art Analysis Page Format

Title of Work:
Artist Name:
Medium:
Dimensions:
Year Created:
Source:

- 1. **Description:** Describe the artwork as clearly as possible using only words. Imagine you are describing it to someone on the phone. Be clear and include as much detail as possible.
- 2. **Analysis:** Use the chart on the back of this page determine how the *Elements of Art*, Line, Shape, Value, Color, Texture, and Space are arranged to create a visually interesting design or composition. Does their arrangement evoke the *Principles of Design?* Look for: Balance, Emphasis, Repetition, Rhythm, Contrast, Proportion, Variety or Unity.
- 3. **Interpretation:** Artists often create artworks that can be challenging to interpret. As viewers we need to use our intellect in ways we are not used to when looking at art. What are some possible meanings of the artwork you chose to write about? Try for more than one and explain.
- 4. **Judgment:** In your opinion, was the artwork successful or not successful? Why or why not? Be sure to include the specific criteria you used to come to your aesthetic decision. What do you feel the artwork's success is based on?

IB Critical Art Analysis: Formal Analysis Chart

How are the Elements of Art arranged in the artwork to create a visually-interesting design or composition?

Steps you need to take in order to answer this question:

- 1. Re-familiarize yourself with the *Elements of Art* and *Principles of Design*. They are available on the art department website. (art.bsge.org)
- 2. Examine the artwork you are analyzing and make notes on how the artist has used the *Elements of Art*. In many cases, they will be arranged in a manner that evokes a *Principle of Design*. The chart below will help you locate these instances.
- 3. Place check marks in the boxes below where you see correlations between *Elements of Art* and *Principles of Design*. Start in the top left box and systematically work through the chart, making sure to consider each possible combination. Look hard at the work in question and you may find many instances!
- 4. Now circle the checkmarks that you feel are **most responsible** for creating visual interest in the artwork and explain them in detail. This will help you develop the skills necessary for analyzing the formal qualities of works of art and help you understand the means by which you can create visual interest in your own work! Try it out below.

		Elements of Art					
	_	Line	Shape	Value	Color	Texture	Space
Principles of Design	Balance						
	Emphasis						
	Rhythm						
	Contrast						
	Proportion						
	Variety						
	Unity						