

Art Analysis

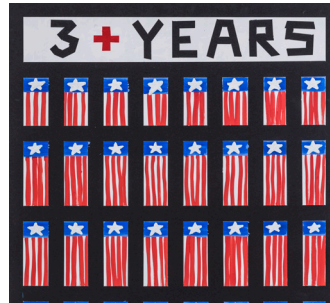
INTRODUCTION – Welcome to the Autry Museum of the American West! The Autry Museum has a **collection** with thousands of items that are made available to people in multiple ways including exhibitions. The Autry Museum offers many different types of exhibitions. These exhibitions display artifacts such as artwork, documents, and objects that tell stories about the diverse peoples of the American West. Artwork comes in many forms. The **medium** used to create an artwork ranges from collages and drawings to photographs and sculptures. Learn more about some of the various types of artwork by looking at images from the Autry Museum and reading their descriptions.



Basket: a 3D artwork created by weaving plants and sometimes other materials together



Ceramic: a 3D artwork made of material like clay that is hard from heat



Collage: an artwork created by attaching various materials to a surface that is flat



Drawing: a 2D picture of something using chalk, crayons, markers, pencils, or pens



Mixed media: an artwork that incorporates more than one type of medium



Painting: a 2D picture of something using paint



Photograph: a 2D picture of something taken with a camera



Print: a 2D work of art created by copying a picture from a surface with ink to another material



Sculpture: a 3D artwork made out of materials that are used in an interesting way



Textile: A woven work of art such as cloth



Video: a recording of visual images that may include audio

Glossary

Collection: a group of items that have been collected to study or to show to people

Medium: the materials used to create artwork; the various types of artistic expression

2D: something that is flat and has length and width

3D: something that is solid and has length, width, and height

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DIRECTIONS – During this activity, you will analyze (study) an artwork from one of the exhibitions at the Autry Museum. Pick your favorite artwork from any exhibition. Then analyze the artwork using the following steps.

STEP A – Look closely at the artwork you picked without reading the object label. An object label provides detailed information about the artwork. Then describe the artwork by answering the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	MY DESCRIPTION
What is the name of the exhibition that the artwork is located in?	
What colors do you see in/on the artwork?	
What shapes do you see in/on the artwork?	
What images (animals, people, places, plants, things, etc.) do you see in/on the artwork?	
What do your eyes focus on? What are your eyes drawn to? Why?	
How does the artwork make you feel (calm, excited, happy, mad, sad, scared, etc.)? Why?	
What else do you notice about the artwork?	

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STEP B – Make a sketch (a simple and quick drawing) of the artwork in the space provided or on a separate document.



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STEP C – Without reading the object label, think about what the artwork’s medium is. Is it a basket, ceramic, collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, photograph, print, sculpture, textile, video, etc.? If you need a reminder about what any of these are, review the images and descriptions in the INTRODUCTION. Then write what you think the artwork’s medium is in the space provided or on a separate document. Explain your thinking.

I think the artwork is a/an _____

because _____

STEP D – Artists create art for a reason. Without reading the object label, think about why the artist might have created this artwork. Write why you think the artist created this artwork in the space provided or on a separate document.

I think the artist created this artwork because _____

STEP E – Without reading the object label, look around the artwork you picked. Is the artwork by itself? Is the artwork grouped with other artifacts (located near other artifacts or in a display case with other artifacts)? Remember - artifacts can be artwork, documents, and objects. Then think about why the artwork you picked might be by itself or grouped with other artifacts. Write whether the artwork is by itself or grouped with other artifacts in the space provided or on a separate document. In addition, write why you think the artwork is by itself or grouped with other artifacts.

I think the artwork is (*write by itself or grouped with other artifacts*) _____

because _____

STEP F – Without reading the object label, think about what questions you have about the artwork. Examples of questions might include: Who made the artwork? What date was the artwork made? What materials was the artwork made of? Write your questions in the space provided or on a separate document.

Question #1: _____

Question #2: _____

Question #3: _____

Question #4: _____

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STEP G – An object label provides detailed information about the artwork and is usually located near the artwork. Find the object label. Then read the object label to see if you can find out what the artwork’s medium is. Remember - the artwork’s medium can be a basket, ceramic, collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, photograph, print, sculpture, textile, video, etc. Write the artwork’s medium in the space provided or on a separate document.

The artwork is a/an _____

STEP H – Why do you think the artist chose to create the artwork using this particular medium? Write your answer to this question in the space provided or on a separate document.

I think the artist chose to create the artwork using this particular medium because _____

STEP I – Learn more about the artwork by reading the object label again. Did you find the answers to any of your questions from STEP F? What else did you learn about the artwork? Write what you learned about the artwork in the space provided or on a separate document.

One thing I learned about the artwork is _____

A second thing I learned about the artwork is _____

Another thing I learned about the artwork is _____

STEP J – Show the sketch you made of the artwork in STEP B to a classmate, family member, friend, teacher, or someone else. Then share what you learned about the artwork in STEP I with them.

Resources

Images

A Gift From California, a painting by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), acrylic and glitter on canvas, circa 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.9

A basket by Linda Aguilar (Chumash). Coiled horsehair, decorated with beads, shells, bingo markers, and cut up credit and debit cards, 2013. Gift of Monica Jane Wyatt, Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, Autry Museum; 2013.27.1

Bronze sculpture by Deborah Butterfield, *Red Branch*, 2007. Purchase made possible by Richard E. Branders, L.A. Louver, James R. Parks, and an Anonymous Donor. Autry Museum; 2009.77.1

Dine (Navajo) blanket, first phase chief-style (beeldlei or hanolchadi), 1880-1910. Donated by Fred K. Hinchman, Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, Autry Museum; 535.G.627

Laguna polychrome earthenware jar, by an unidentified Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico potter, circa 1880-1900. It features painted geometric designs and a spiral motif. George Wharton James Collection, Autry Museum; 421.G.210

A lithograph by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.331

Lost Hills (Yokut) 10.19.16, from the *Power* series, a panoramic photograph by Lewis deSoto (Cahuilla), 2016. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2018.56.1.1-2

Pima Sandwich, a mixed-media photograph by Richard Bluecloud Castaneda (Pima Maricopa from the Salt River Reservation). Archival pigment transfer on aluminum and mixed media, 2016. Purchase made possible by Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2017.34.1

A Southern Plains Indian ledger drawing, pencil and crayon on paper, circa 1882. General Charles McC. Reeve Collection, Autry Museum; 491.P.3441.11

Video by Kristina Faragher, *Gaping Mouth*, 2006. Shot in Yosemite in 2006. The title of the work refers to the name first applied to the now-famous valley by its original residents. The Southern Miwok called the valley *awahni*, or “place like a gaping mouth.” Purchase courtesy of Kristina Faragher; original score by Mark Kozelek and special thanks to Curt Lemieux, Autry Museum; 2007.89.1

3+ Years, a collage by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), undated, Autry Museum; 2016.10.213

Text

“Collage.” *Merriam-Webster.com* Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collage>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2021.