Some ART/TOK questions

• Why are the arts important?
• What are the roles of emotion and reason in the arts?
• What are the standards by which we judge art and how can we justify them?
• What moral responsibilities does the artist have? Are they different from any other knower?
• To what extent does an artist have a moral obligation to avoid or confront issues that might shock or be contrary to the common populace?
• Is art simply an imitation of an idea?
• Is the artist’s intention relevant to the viewer?
• To what extent does the work of the artist influence the culture in which it was created? To what extent does the existing culture influence the artist working in it?
• Is it important for artworks to be original? Why?
• What do we expect from art? Truth? Seduction? Provocation? Beauty?

By Heather McReynolds
Interpretive Frameworks

What are the standards by which we judge art and how can we justify them?

By Heather McReynolds
Imitationalism

To imitate the appearance of nature. Realism or naturalism. Skill and craft required

By Heather McReynolds
Formalism emphasizes formal composition, design.

By Heather McReynolds
Emotionalism
or expressionism. Intensity of expression, emotional content more important than formal rendering or likeness.

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Conceptual

a type of art in which the artist's idea, or concept, of a work of art and of the means of executing that idea have primary importance while the artwork itself, which may or may not be produced, is regarded as secondary

By Heather McReynolds
Working in small groups, identify interpretive frameworks for the following images. You can refer to these frameworks and maybe others as well.

- Imitationalism, Formalism, Emotionalism, Iconoclastic, Conceptual, as discussed,
- Gender interpretive framework
- Cultural interpretive framework
- Narrative interpretive framework
- Psychoanalytic interpretive framework
- Materials and processes interpretive framework

- There can be multiple frameworks for any work!

Viewed together, these frameworks help you to appreciate how an artwork contains many different aspects of meaning – from the formal to the political, and from the historical to the cultural.

By Heather McReynolds
Louise Nevelson

By Heather McReynolds
Vija Celmins

By Heather McReynolds
Cornelia parker

By Heather McReynolds
Anselm Kiefer

By Heather McReynolds
Joseph Albers

By Heather McReynolds
Joseph Kosuth

By Heather McReynolds
Edvard Munch

By Heather McReynolds
Cy Twombly

By Heather McReynolds
Consider again....your view on art

Are there absolute standards for good art, or is the only standard for good art individual taste?

By Heather McReynolds
In your Investigation Workbook apply some interpretive frameworks to the artists’ works that you are looking at in your individual research. What frameworks help you to understand and analyse the work?

Now apply them to your own work!

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