Aesthetic Criticism
(Based Edmund Burke Feldman's Varieties of Visual Experience)

1. DESCRIPTION - Identify the elements and materials included. Inventory what is presented. Be objective - avoid interpretation or evaluation.
    a. Name and describe what you see - objects, shapes, colors, spaces etc.
    b. Classify the elements - line, color, form and texture.
    c. Identify how the work was made - materials and procedures involved.

2. FORMAL ANALYSIS - How are things organized? How the elements relate to each other? What choices has the artist made?
    a. How are things alike and different
    b. How are things placed relevant to one another (space)
    c. Identify characteristics of the elements - e.g. elongated forms, intensity of colors, etc.
    d. Analyze the compositional structure - e.g. balance, positive/negative relationships, unity, etc.

3. INTERPRETATION - In view of the evidence you have seen, what does the work mean?
    a. Is there a problem the work seems involved with?
    b. What is or is there a thematic nature of the work?
    c. How does the work relate to the artist or the time - i.e. art history . Relate any other knowledge you might have - e.g. historical, mythical, stylistic, etc.
    d. How did the artist use the elements of art and composition to achieve his goals?

4. EVALUATION - How does this work rate, based on the above aesthetic merits? What are the big questions you can ask about this work?
    a. Examine the craftsmanship and technique.
    b. Consider originality or the ability of the artist to solve the problem he or she was dealing with.
    c. Compare it with other works in its class.
    d. Does the work communicate significant ideas, relate to the human condition, etc.? If not, does that diminish the works value to society?
    e. What functions does the work serve?
    f. Did the artist make successful choices of the elements of art and composition? Has he/she been successful in solving the problem or communicating the message/achieving the function of the work?