

## Guide for Critical Analysis Process - TESSELLATIONS

1. *The critical analysis process is an approach to critical thinking. This is a way of thinking about what you see - there are SIX steps!*
2. *Respond to as many of the questions in each category as possible in full sentences.*

### 1) Initial Reaction

- How does this image make me feel?
- Does this image remind you of anything?
- What puzzles you about this photograph?
- What are your questions about this image?
- What questions would you ask the photographer who took the photo?

### 2) Description

- What do you see? Can you identify the subject matter?
- What colors do you see?
- What patterns do you see?
- What shapes do you see?

### 3) Analysis

Which Elements and Principles of Design are most important in this image?  
(Elements and Principles of Design)

**Elements: LINE SHAPE COLOR VALUE TEXTURE SPACE FORM**

**Principles:**

**BALANCE (symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial**

**CONTRAST EMPHASIS PATTERN UNITY MOVEMENT RHYTHM**

- Where are there areas of contrast or pattern?
- Where or how has the artist suggested movement or created rhythm?
- How has the feeling of balance been created?
- Is there unity?

### 4) Interpretation

- What is happening in this image? Where do you think it was taken?
- What makes this image important or interesting or challenging?
- How does the title of this image add to its meaning?
- What feelings, thoughts or ideas does this image suggest to you?
- Does this image connect with some aspect of your life?

**5) Cultural Context**

- When was this image taken?
- Two facts about that area/city/location.
- Why was this image created? What was the intent of the photographer (a message to the viewer?)
- Was this image created for a particular individual or group? ----Who is the audience?
- What connection might this photograph have with our present society or future society or culture?
- Did the artist have a political or social justice reason for creating this artwork or image?

**6) Informed Point of View**

- Have you changed your initial reaction? Do you like this image better after your analysis of the other five steps? Why or why not?
- What might you change about this image and why?
- What qualities make this photograph valuable? In price? In society? Personally?
- How does this image inspire you?