

Formal Analysis Questions: Brief Version

Technique and Materials

How was this object made? Which materials were used?

Composition

What is the focus of the composition? Does the work suggest a narrative (a story) or a sense of time?

Light, Color, Perspective

What is the effect of light and shadow—is it even or sharply contrasting?

Are the colors warm, cool, or monochrome? Saturated or muted? How are they placed across the work?

Does the artist convey a sense of perspective? How? Is the space intentionally distorted?

Function and Context

What might be significant about the time period in which the work was created?

What was the original context for the work? How was it used?

Collecting History and Museology

What is the present state or condition of this object? What has led to this state?

How is the work displayed in the museum, and in relation to which other objects?