

Welcome to the Stanley Museum of Art!

A formal analysis examines the material object. For a print, a formal analysis includes the printed image, technique, and paper it's printed on.

**1. Which work are you looking at?**

Title:

Artist or Culture:

Date:

Medium:

(What is it made out of?)

**2. What is your initial reaction to the work?****3. Spend 2 minutes looking at the work. Just look. Don't write or draw anything.**

What was the experience like? Did the time pass slowly or quickly? Did you find new things the longer you looked? Did looking for a longer period of time change your initial impression of the work?

**4. Sketching exercises:** An icon consisting of a clock face and a pencil, symbolizing time and drawing.

30 seconds

1 minute

1 ½ minutes

How did the experience of sketching the work change your impression of the work? What surprised you? What challenged you?

## 5. Writing about what you see.

What is the first thing you notice about the artwork?

How does the artist make this stand out?

Where are important objects placed?

Are they closer to the viewer/picture plane or farther away?

Are they grouped together or separated?

Are they on the left or right side; top or bottom?

What is in light? Concealed in shadows?

What kind of line does the artist use? Is it thick? Thin? Angular? Curvy?

Are there any repeated figures, motifs, or patterns? Where?

What questions do you have about what you see?

6. The choices artists make when constructing artworks can give us clues into why they made it, for whom, and for what occasion. Think about the observations you recorded above. What clues might the artist be giving you about this object?