

**Visual and Performing Arts**  
**Art IV**  
**Unit 4: Aesthetics and Criticism**

<b>Essential Understandings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Artists, Art Historians, and Art Critics have different philosophies and use different methods to interpret and evaluate works of art.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is art?</li> <li>▪ How do people evaluate art?</li> <li>▪ How do people express opinions about art?</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formal analysis of an artwork can lead to informed opinions about art.</li> <li>▪ The meaning of art differs based on the point of view of the artist, art historian, art critic or viewer.</li> <li>▪ There are different aesthetic theories of art.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aesthetics, criticism, analyze, interpret, evaluate, philosophy, point of view, theory</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Essential Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Write critically about art.</li> <li>▪ Distinguish between historical interpretation and a personal point of view.</li> <li>▪ Explore and respond to aesthetic ideas and theories of art.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p><u>Visual and Performing Arts</u>  D. Aesthetics and Criticism  D1. Aesthetics and Criticism  Students analyze and evaluate art forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Describe, analyze, interpret, and evaluate art forms by applying grade span appropriate arts concepts, vocabulary, skills, and processes as referenced in Standard A: Disciplinary Literacy.</li> <li>b. Analyze and evaluate varied interpretations of works of art using evidence from observations and a variety of print and/or non-print sources.</li> <li>c. Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between a personal opinion and an informed judgment.</li> <li>d. Research and explain how art and artists reflect and shape their time and culture.</li> </ol> <p>E. Visual and Performing Arts Connections  E1. The Arts and History and World Cultures  Students analyze the characteristics and purposes of products of the visual/performing arts to understand history and/or world cultures.</p>

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<p><b>Sample Lessons And Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using Art History texts, review artworks by famous artists.</li> <li>▪ Choose a master work of art that you consider aesthetically pleasing, and write a formal analysis of the piece.</li> <li>▪ Compare and contrast artworks based using aesthetic theories.</li> <li>▪ Create a work of art using the piece that you chose as inspiration.</li> <li>▪ Write a critique of your work comparing it to the work of the famous artist you chose.</li> <li>▪ Identify and explore a personal aesthetic and defend it during a critique.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Essay</li> <li>▪ Portfolio</li> <li>▪ Critique</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sample Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>The Annotated Mona Lisa</u> - Strickland</li> <li>○ <u>History of Art for Young People</u> - Janson</li> <li>○ <u>Art History</u> - Stokstad</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <u>Other Resources:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Art Department Resource Library</li> <li>○ Art Reproductions Print File</li> </ul> </li> </ul>