



How to assess Abstract and Visual art photographs

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AGENDA

Definitions

Discussion

Examples

You be the judge

Feedback

Introduction

- ▶ We are entering the **creative side** of photography.
- ▶ I have used definitions from the **art world**.
- ▶ **Immerse yourself** in the world of Abstract and Visual Art by attending gallery openings, visiting art museums and following contemporary artists and photographers.
- ▶ **Free yourself** from the conventions of traditional, representational photography.

Definition: Abstract Art

Abstract art is art that ***does not*** attempt to ***represent an accurate depiction*** of a visual reality but instead uses shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.

[HTTPS://WWW.TATE.ORG.UK/ART/ART-TERMS/A/ABSTRACT-ART](https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-art)

Definition: Visual Art

"Visual Arts" is a modern but imprecise umbrella term for a broad category of art which includes artistic disciplines from various sub-categories. Its wide ambit renders meaningless any attempt at definition.

[HTTP://WWW.VISUAL-ARTS-CORK.COM/DEFINITIONS/VISUAL-ART.HTM](http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/definitions/visual-art.htm)

“

The main focus of visual arts is ***creative expression through visual means.*** This means there is communication ***without the need for words*** and without the need for the other human senses.”

How do you assess...

ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY?

- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Line
- ▶ Colour
- ▶ Shape
- ▶ Form
- ▶ Pattern
- ▶ Texture
- ▶ Contrast
- ▶ Balance
- ▶ Mood / feeling

VISUAL ART PHOTOGRAPHY?

- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Line
- ▶ Colour
- ▶ Shape
- ▶ Form
- ▶ Pattern
- ▶ Texture
- ▶ Contrast
- ▶ Balance
- ▶ Mood / feeling
- ▶ Meaning / Symbolism

Group Discussion: What is your take on these terms?

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CREATIVITY

Created rather than imitated



AESTHETICS

Responsive to or appreciative
of what is **pleasurable to the
senses**



CONCEPTUAL

An art form in which the artist's
intent is to **convey a concept**
rather than to create an art
object

Guidelines for assessment

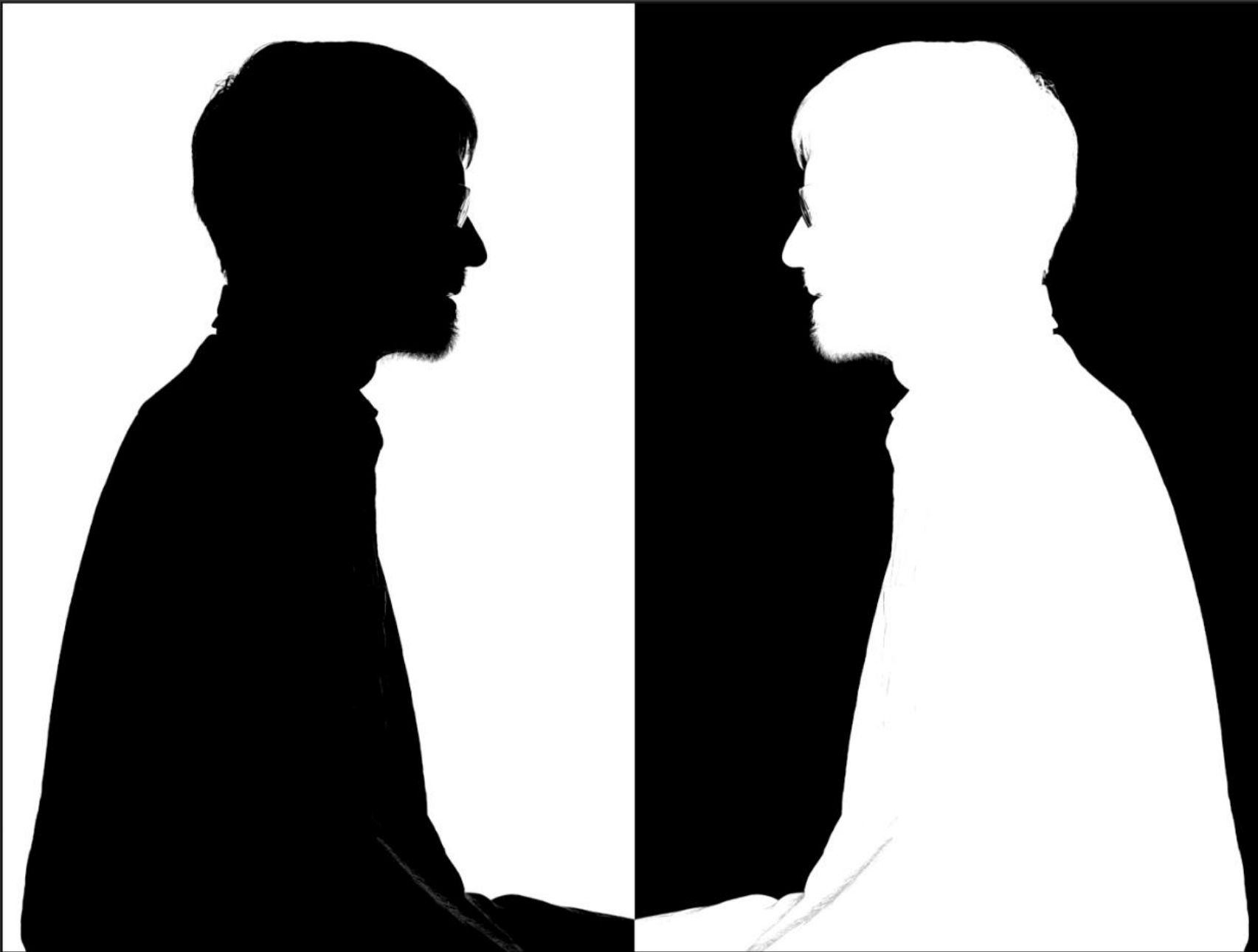
- ▶ Overall **impact**
- ▶ Discuss the use of **art criteria** (colour, line, composition, shape, balance, contrast, pattern and texture)
- ▶ Does it evoke a **mood**?
- ▶ Is there **symbolism** or a deeper meaning?
- ▶ Does it “**hang together**”?
- ▶ Are the **technical aspects** well handled?

Some examples

Let's discuss some abstract and a visual art examples as a group.
The dark grey background is the slide colour – not a frame!



Healing waters – Beth Buelow (copyrighted)



Double take – Chris Herselman (copyrighted)



Flowing water – Steff Hughes (copyrighted)



Once in a blue moon – Steff Hughes (copyrighted)

It is now your turn...

You will each get a turn to offer comment on an image.
I will then give you feedback on your commentary.