

Frances Bacon research

Background information -

Francis Bacon (1909–92) was a maverick who rejected the preferred artistic style of abstraction of the era, in favour of a distinctive and disturbing realism. Growing up, Bacon had a difficult and ambivalent relationship with his parents – especially his father, who struggled with his son's emerging homosexuality.

This contributed to a troubled childhood; he ran away from school, and subsequently drifted through the late 1920s and early 30s in London, Berlin and Paris, living off his allowance and occasional jobs, and dodging the rent. When in London, he lived in the epicentre of the bohemian scene; a regular in Soho, he led a hedonistic life.

From the mid-1940s his work met with critical success, establishing his reputation. Today, he is recognised as one of the most important painters of the twentieth century.

Links to the project -

He was influenced after seeing an exhibition of Picasso's at Paul Rosenberg's Paris gallery in the late 20s, to become an artist. Picasso's representations of the body as bone-like, biomorphic structures revealed to Bacon the 'possibilities of painting'. He later acknowledged Picasso as a key influence and reference point.

"I've had a desire to do forms, as when I originally did three forms at the base of the crucifixion. They were influenced by the Picasso things which were done at the end of the 'twenties. And I think there's a whole area there suggested by Picasso, which in a way has been unexplored, of organic form that relates to the human image but is a complete distortion of it."

Formal Elements –

Describe the formal elements in his work; line, tone, texture, colour, form, pattern and shape.

Your Opinion –

What do you think of his work? How has it influenced your work? Is it something you would think about using later in the project? E,g a Triptych?

You also need to include photos of his work, a copy of one of them and a critical analysis of the one you draw, use the analysis sheet to help.

Analysis of Artwork

THE FORMAL ELEMENTS

Describe what

formal elements are in the artwork.

Explain why the artist has used them.

Explain how do these elements convey meaning or create an impact? Give examples.

Line, Form, Tone, Texture, Pattern, Colour, Shape.

PROCESS

Explain how the artwork was produced. Consider the following:

What is the medium/material?
What techniques have been used?
What size is the artwork? What (if any) impact does this have on the viewer?

INTRODUCTION

Describe the artist, consider the following:

Who created the work?
When and where the work was made?
What themes does the artist explore and the general style of their work?
What art movement are they affiliated with?

CONTENT

Describe the art work as though you were explaining it to someone who cannot see it.

Explain why the artist created the image. Consider the following:

What type of art is it?
What is the art work about/
what is the subject matter?
What can you see (Foreground, middle ground, background)?
What is the focal point of the art work?



CONNECTIONS

Compare this work to others that may be of a similar theme or made in a similar way.

Review and **relate** these works with your own project. Consider the following:

How does it link to your project?
What ideas does it give you?
What have you learnt from analysing the artwork/artist?

MOOD

Describe the mood of the artwork. Consider the following:

Does the work capture a mood feeling or emotion?
How would you describe the mood of the artwork?
How has this been achieved?

CONTEXT

Explain What influenced the artist to create the artwork. Consider the following:

When was it created? Describe the period/context when/where the work was made?
What was happening in the world at that time that might have influenced the work?
How does the period/context influence the work?
What else was happening when the work was made (Art, life, politics) that may have influenced the artist and their work?