Interpreting Artworks

Charles C. Myers Library

Scholarly articles on artworks go beyond a description work, and instead focus on its meaning.

There are many ways in which scholars interpret artworks, and each one is like looking through a different colored lens.

Some example lenses:

Social/Political Context
The author interprets the artwork in light of the social and political conditions present at the time it was created.

Art Historical Context
The author examines the work in terms of its significance in the history of art.

Theoretical Framework
The author evaluates the artwork from the perspective of a certain theory - For example, feminist critiques apply feminist theory.

What lens is your author using?

Need a tip? Ask a librarian!