

## Visual Art 20

### Lesson 3.1: Art and the World – Art and Society

#### Peer Critique

Complete a critique of a peer's work, using the following as a guide. You may wish to write jot notes as you look at the work, but your critique should be written in paragraph form.

Share your critique paragraph to your website under "My Work." To the classroom, submit a document stating the artist and artwork you are writing a critique for.

Critic: [Rachael Lao](#)

Artist: [AuLaura Worthington](#)

Title of Work Critiqued: [Ink Blot Monster](#)



Affirmation: List three to five things that are well done.

- Creativity on using the ink blot to form a unique monster
- A sense of motion by the monster's blown ink as it emerges from the pool of black liquid in the bottom corner of the drawing
- Adequate details on its face and wire appendages
- Contrast between the light and dark elements
- A balanced composition where the subject is looking to the left, but most of its details are on the right

Reflection: State your overall opinion on the work, and justify with details and evidence taken directly from the work.

I think AuLaura did a good job creating this work. It is simple yet aesthetically pleasing because of its balanced composition. I can sense she must have had some sort of inspiration and tried to express her idea through this drawing, based on the intricate details of the wires and splash of liquid at the bottom corner. After observing her work for a while, it left me wanting more. I want to know the story behind this monster and why it is connected to all those wires. Often times, I think of monsters as living, biological creatures, but this one seems to be a mechanical being. Overall, it is a unique and interesting monster design.

Technique: Comment on the technique used, particularly on the techniques focused in that particular lesson (e.g. the facial proportions for the portrait).

The technique that AuLaura used was inkblots, which is creating designs out of blown ink instead of drawn from a pen. In Lesson 2.7 of Visual Arts 20, it highlights a contemporary artist named Stephan G. Bucher who creates inkblot monsters. He takes an inkblot, blows it with compressed air, then takes that initial shape to create a monster. The fun thing is you do not need to use only ink. The blot can be made with coffee, paint, food colouring, or anything else you can think of. Just be sure to protect any surfaces you do not want to get stained because this technique can be messy.

Inquiry: *Pose two to three questions to the artist.*

*My first question is what the story of the subject is. I have wondered ways she could express it better than what she did in this work. My second question is what inspired her to create the monster. I am very curious to know how she came about it and whether there are more parts to the monster than what is seen in the drawing.*

Suggestion: *Provide two to three suggestions for the artist going forward, on this piece in particular or the overall technique.*

*My first suggestion would be to create a story by adding more elements, such as filling up the background without distracting from the main subject. Or she could try adding colour to make it more interesting. As for the technique she used, I suggest she try blowing the ink at a closer distance or using a compressed air can for a more natural or finer look. Her inkblot looked as though it was drawn or painted the first time I saw it. It can be because of how the lines are mostly thick and splotchy.*

Illation: *Draw a conclusion about the work, concentrating on the technique, what was well done, and your overall opinion, relying on the points above as detail and evidence to justify your conclusion.*

*In conclusion, I think AuLaura did a good job on this work. She was able to create a unique and interesting monster using the initial shape of the inkblot. The wires attached to the monster resemble much like the blot, creating a sense of cohesiveness throughout the drawing. However, she could try blowing the ink at a closer distance or using a stronger force of air to create a more natural blot. Her inkblot is good overall, but there are ways to make it more visually appealing. AuLaura has potential for creating better inkblots in the future if she decides to continue practicing and experimenting with different techniques to find what suits her best.*