

Abstract

Aesthetics research aimed at understanding the influence of contextual information on art appreciation is an emerging field; however, previous researches have been developed into psychological and historical approaches independently. The present study expands and complements a significant framework – the Psycho-historical Framework to combine both approaches into a practical study. In an online experiment, audiences were given six artworks in different genres, open-ended questions were asked, results were analyzed by thematic analysis and seven psychological attributes of art were extracted. We examined the art-historical contexts in the stimuli and their influence on psychological attributes of art from audience responses. The relations in between audience's sensitivity to art-historical context and their psychological responses are discussed.

Keywords: art appreciation, psycho-historical framework, psychological attributes of art, art-historical context, audience preference, sensitivity, knowledge, mindreading, theory-based reasoning, thematic analysis