

Art Criticism Elements:

- Description—
What is in the picture?
- Interpretation—
What does the picture mean?
- Evaluation—
Is the artist successful in expressing an idea or in evoking a response from the viewer?

Do You Agree?

Having an opinion is central to being interesting.

Language facilitates and enriches our understanding of art.

Criticism is informed talk about art.

Knowing is being alive.

Art cannot be defined.

Modernity is dead.

Art is dead.

Post-modernity doesn't exist.

Christo's Gateway to Central Park

Central Park, New York, New York

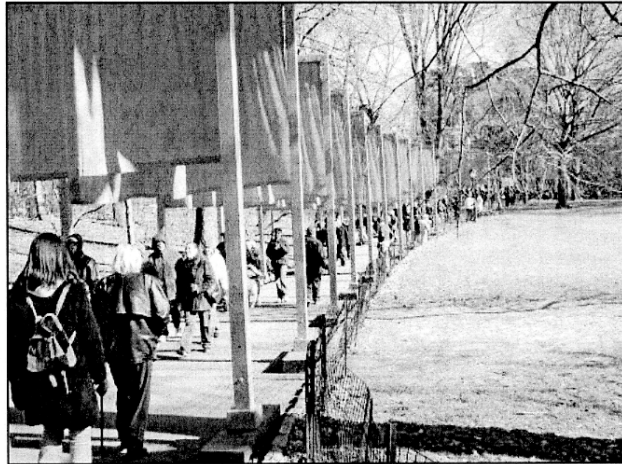
By Gregory Wahlmeier

Well, the Gates have come and gone; some people think it was an artistic triumph and a boon for New York; others think it was a crock and a waste of resources.

Thousands of gates, 16 feet tall stood at from 6 feet to 18 feet wide according to the varying width of the 23 miles of walkways in Central Park. Free-hanging orange colored fabric panels (called saffron), suspended from the horizontal top part of the gates, came down to approximately 7 feet above the ground. The gates and fabric panels, spaced at 12 foot intervals, were seen from far away through the leafless branches of the trees. This work of art remained for 16 days, then the gates were removed and the materials industrially recycled.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude, husband and

wife, said that the gates were purely for art. One fourth grader agreed by saying "It's a waste of money, but it's fabulous." It brings happiness when you look at it." Art can stand alone as something that doesn't exist to serve the economy or perform a measurable task. And that's art's value.



But, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Central Park gates lacked magnetic, transforming power. Instead visiting the gates in the park was sort of like being in an Austin Powers movie without the humor; the awful 1960's shower curtain colors and the Russian cell block functionalist

detailing of the frames looked like some sad left over from a pot head's yard sale, a vision from 1968 frozen in time. Christo's lackluster project couldn't be helped by the way the gates drove viewers to seek greater heights of sensation or by the off-putting emergency color, or the subtle grid of the rip-stop nylon reminiscent of quick escapes from troubled aircraft.

Writing About Art

You too can be a critic!

What do you think of Picasso? Could a child have drawn as well?

Pick an artwork to write about, such as a painting, sculpture, photograph, a public work, performance,

or other kind of art.

This is your assignment!

Write about your chosen artwork using the three elements of art criticism as enumerate above: description, interpretation, and evaluation. Write a paragraph for

each of these three elements. You can include an introductory paragraph as well as a conclusion paragraph. Use MLA format: use 10 or 12 point type size, use double-spacing, use footnotes if necessary. You must attribute all quotes.