

Museum of Fine Arts Assignment
Due November 18, 2005

1. At some point in your visit to the MFA, take a few minutes to yourself. Breathe. Pay attention to how the architecture, the floors, walls, spaces make you feel. What does the museum feel like to you? Write about it. Be as descriptive as possible.
2. "Yet when an image is presented as a work of art, the way people look at it is affected by a whole series of learnt assumptions about art." (Berger) What are the assumptions you bring to the work you are seeing in the museum??
3. Find one of Ansel Adams' photos that you would describe as a landscape. Stand in front of it and allow it to reveal itself to you. What was important to Adams in this particular image? What was he trying to communicate? How did he incorporate the three levels of visual data in his photography? (Please include the title and the date of the photo.)
4. Find one of Ansel Adams' photos that you would describe as a portrait. Stand in front of it and allow it to reveal itself to you. What was important to Adams in this particular image? What was he trying to communicate? How did he incorporate the three levels of visual data in his photography? How does his portraiture relate to his landscapes? Does it? (Please include the title and the date of the photo.)
5. Find one of Ansel Adams' photos that you would describe as abstract. Stand in front of it and allow it to reveal itself to you. What was important to Adams in this particular image? What was he trying to communicate? How did he incorporate the three levels of visual data in his photography? How does this photo relate to his work as a landscape artist? (Please include the title and the date of the photo.)
6. Find a painting or photograph that speaks to you. One that you love. That you could look at all day and still see more. Write me a paragraph about that painting. Why you like it. What you see. What it means to you. Why you think it is a "work of art."