



# Education Resource

## VCE Art: Introducing the Analytical Frameworks

### ***Edwin Tanner: Mathematical Expressionist***

Curated by Anthony Fitzpatrick

TarraWarra Museum of Art

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This education resource is intended to be used as a starting point for teachers and students and addresses the cross study specifications for VCE Art Unit 1-4 Introducing the Analytical Frameworks, and VCE Art Unit 4 Discussing Art.

The following Analytical frameworks can be used for interpreting art.

- > The **Structural Framework** is used to analyse how the style, symbolism and structural elements of artworks contribute to the meanings and messages conveyed.
- > The **Personal Framework** is used to shed light on how artworks can reflect an artist's personal feelings, thinking and life circumstances and how the viewer's interpretations are influenced by their own life experiences.
- > The **Cultural Framework** is used to identify the influence an artwork of the context of time and place in which it was made.
- > The **Contemporary Framework** is used to interpret how contemporary ideas and issues influences the making, interpretation and analysis of artworks from both the past and the present.

Applying the **Structural Framework**

What are the two most important elements Edwin Tanner uses in this artwork and explain why you think so?

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Is there any evidence of the use of symbolism? Give reasons for your answer.

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What materials, techniques and processes have been used? How is the interpretation of the artwork shaped by the materials and the technical skills or processes used by the artist? Is this due to inherent qualities of the materials or to their application by the artist?

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What is the distinctive style of the artwork and how does it contribute to the meaning/s of the artwork? How does the work relate to other works in a similar style or from the same philosophical, historical or cultural context?

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Make a list here of all the words you can think of to describe the type of line Edwin Tanner uses :

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- |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 2.  | 3.  |
| 4.  | 5.  | 6.  |
| 7.  | 8.  | 9.  |
| 10. | 11. | 12. |
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Draw some of these different lines in the space below.

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Applying the **Personal Framework**

How does Edwin Tanner's *Madrigals* (1960) work make you feel?

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What do you think the title of the work means? Investigate the meaning of *Madrigals*.

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Research this artwork to find out more about the artist's interests. How are these interests reflected in the artwork?

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How has your understanding of the work *Madrigals* changed by the research you have done and the knowledge you have gained?

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Applying the **Cultural Framework**

Pick an artwork by Edwin Tanner:

ARTWORK TITLE.....DATE CREATED.....

Research on the internet to find out what was happening in Australian society at this time. Does Tanner's practice reflect any of your findings?

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Consider how the values, attitudes and beliefs of the time the artwork was created may have impacted on the artist or this work in particular.

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Find out how the Tanner's work was reviewed or critiqued during the time in which it was made. Was the work considered challenging or innovative?

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Applying the **Contemporary Framework**

Are there any contemporary art ideas and issues that challenge our understanding of the artwork?

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How was the artwork interpreted in the past? Has that interpretation changed from a contemporary point of view?

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How might the original context in which the artwork was made change its meaning or purpose to us as contemporary viewers?

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Sketch or draw the artwork in the space provided.

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