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Ways of thinking.

Task 1-Manifesto writing

- keep your environment unique
- keep traditional methods of making alive.(cant be replaced by computers)
- art should reflect the artist's personality and stage life-grow with them and change as they do.
- I want to be sustainable in my practices and take this into consideration when supplying my materials.
- to stand out in art you must take risks.
- art is a tool used to express your love for others, the gift of your thought and time.(heirloom art)
- find ideas through making
- time spent on handmade work is what gives it its value.

500 words:

-keep your environment unique.

William Morris stated '*Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.*', his art aimed to be decorative and '*encouraged individualism*' over '*machine uniformity*'. Morris' work is an example of craftsmanship, and aimed to create a well designed environment to contrast the dullness created through mass production. This is especially prominent today, in a world controlled by trends, where most aim to be a clone of each other, this way of living restricts people from fully expressing their unique characteristics, preventing themselves from their full potential to be happy. This is especially prominent in the upper class where people often stick to what portrays their wealth, and are more afraid to stray from the latest trends. The way you decorate the space around you greatly impacts your mood and the way you romanticise your life. Art should be used as a tool to create your ideal world, not always be forced to have meaning.



Fig 11-William morris honeysuckle design
National Trust. "Who Was William Morris?" *National Trust*, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/history/people/who-was-william-morris.
Accessed 5 Nov. 2025.

-Keep traditional methods of making alive.(cant be replaced by computers)

There is something special about traditional methods of making, techniques that have stood the test of time for a reason. We live in a time where people are opting for quantity over quality, and art is at risk of being replaced by computer generated work due to its speed and cheapness. Traditional art methods including the pottery wheel and glass work, can only be produced by hand, creating a beauty in them as the time taken to produce these items is essential and they contain unique differences which make them identifiable as hand made. A quote from the book *Art Intelligence : How Generative AI Relates to Human Art-Making*, states '*What is there that we do...that can't be copied?*'

which highlights the protected nature of traditional methods of art from generative ai, as it is one of the last standing areas that can't be replicated by computers and produce the same outcome.



Fig 2 -Ai Wei wei sunflower seeds-making process

-Art is a tool used to express your love for others, the gift of your thought and time.(heirloom art)

When creating a piece of art you are making something unique and individual, which can be personalised and specifically catered to the needs and personality of another. Considering this, a gift of something you have produced with your own hands can act as a symbol of love towards those who you give it to, shown through the time, thought, and catered design of the art. The gift of your time is especially valuable in this day, where it is rare for people to stop and take time to do something that doesn't confined to their busy schedule. These gifts can then become heirloom, which will have a different meaning to each person it gets passed down to, the original meaning of the piece which was once specific to one person but may shift and its meaning may change as the association of the art may change to the gifter rather than the original artist. Art made as an expression of love represents the current stage of life for those people, meaning the act of giving handcrafted gifts to be heirloom created a timeline of love telling a story of people's life through their art. A good example of a handcrafted gift is quilts, which are a visual representation of the time spent to create the piece, traditionally quilts were made practically for warmth, but served as a reminder of the gifter, when you use the gift.



Fig 3, the magic of gifting handmade quilts, 2023.

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Task 2-observational writing

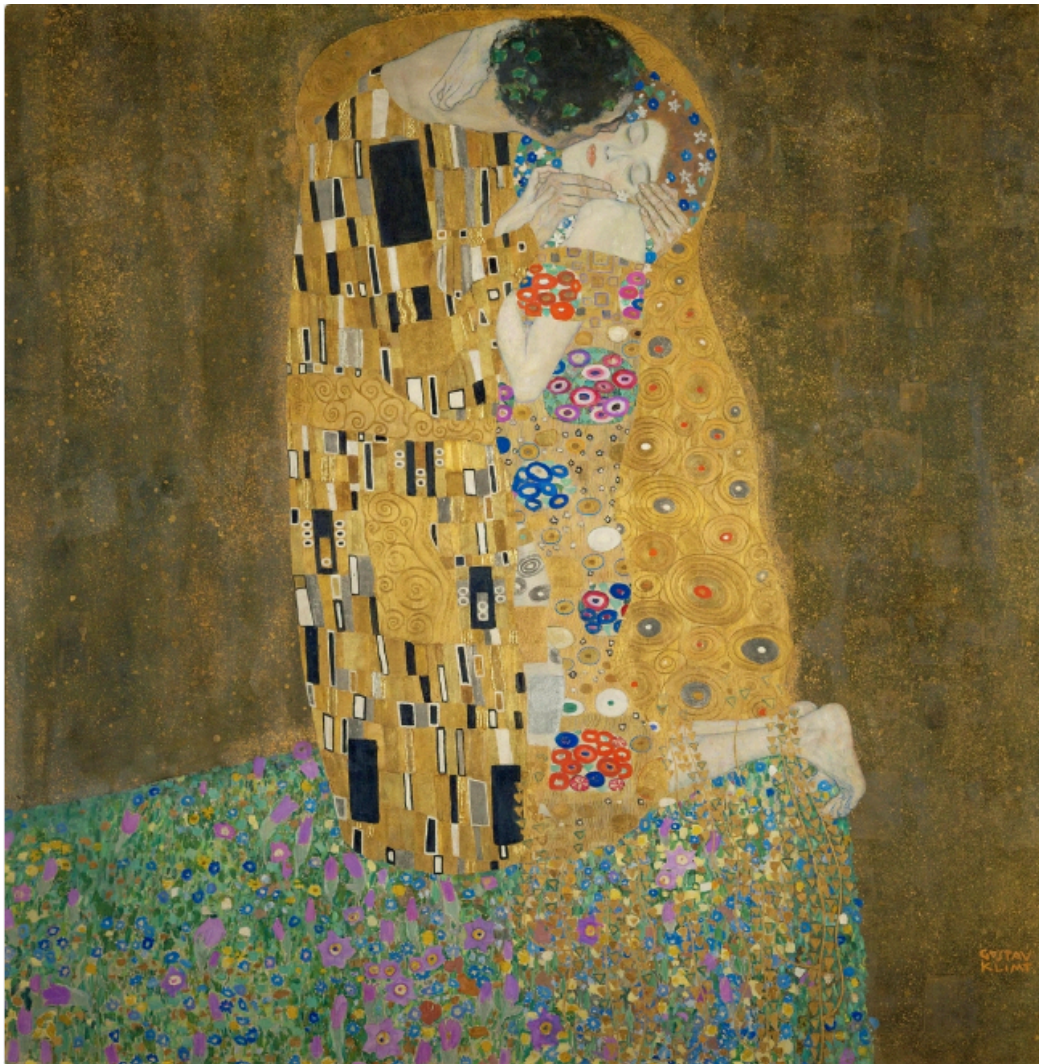


Fig 4-Gustav Klimt, 1907-1908.

When approaching semiotic analysis (the theory and study of signs and symbols) of the Kiss (1907-1908) by Gustav Klimt, the subject can be defined as two human forms in an embrace. Through this lens I will deconstruct this chosen image exploring the significance of its elements. In Roland Barthes' seminal publications, *Image Music Text* (1977), when referring to semiotics, Barthes conveys 'denoted' as the literal meaning of a sign, and 'connoted' its implied meaning.

Gustav Klimt was a painter who lived in Galerie Belvedere (Vienna, Austria) between 1862-1918. In this time Vienna was still very traditional in nature so Klimt's work would have been considered the start of modern art in Austria. Klimt was never married or romantically involved with anyone, but had an obsession with sex, which was prominent in his painting, with some of his work being disregarded and labeled as pornographic. Contrasting this the Kiss is considered one of the most romantic paintings in history, even though the painter was never romantically involved.

I was drawn to the kiss because of its unique colour palette, consisting mainly of gold and ochre. Colour semiotics is the 'meaning we convey through colour as a sign' (semiotics of colour-foolproof), this can be the feelings we get when presented with certain colours. Gold can be seen as a symbol of 'wealth, power and divinity', gold has been used in ancient cultures for processes in tombs or in religion to emphasize spiritual significance. Additionally gold has connotations with royalty and power, shown in crowns and sceptres. The brightness of gold not only attracts the attention of the viewer, but symbolises the 'sacredness' of the moment captured in the kiss. Yellow Ochre is also a prominent colour in 'The Kiss'. 'Yellow ochre relates to the sun, warmth, and divine light.' and is connoted with 'sacred time' (deep symbol-By Ryan / Colors / August 4, 2025)

Looking at the painting I was also drawn to the patterns used for the figures' garments, with the man being draped with black rectangles and the woman in spirals and circles. Black rectangles are connoted with thrusting masculinity (reference video), and the circles thought to symbolise the ova. This expression of gender roles in the garments further emphasises the relationship between the figures. Additionally, it can denote the crown of vines on the man's head and the flowers that cloth the woman in the painting. These suggest a 'consummation of some kind of ritual' (reference video)

I can deduce that the kiss conveys a relationship of love and intimacy, shown through the use of gold and ochre, which express the importance of the kiss and infer the moment is sacred and holds worth. Additionally the colours attract the viewer, and create a sense of comfort and warmth portraying an idealistic image that provides hope and longing for the viewer.

semiotics is a useful tool to analyse work, to explore it deeper than face value. looking further than just the signifier but also into the signified allows more information to be extracted from what would otherwise be a meaningless image. Looking at the kiss without semiotic analysis of colour the gold would have no meaning, but through semiotics we can deter that worth and scarcity expressed through the use of gold which is pivotal to the expression of the painting

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Task 3-practice based writing

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