**Kröller Müller**

From gorgeous paintings to hideous monstrosities, the museum is apparently full of them. But what exactly makes a work of art beautiful or ugly? And is that actually important? This is the definition of 'beautiful' according to the Oxford Dictionary:

beautiful ● adj. **1** pleasing the senses or mind aesthetically. **2** of a very high standard; excellent.
— DERIVATIVES **beautifully** adv.

Let's see if we can use this definition for the works of art in the museum. Look for a work that you find 'aesthetically pleasing'.

1 **Make a quick sketch of the composition and name the three characteristics that appeal to you the most.**
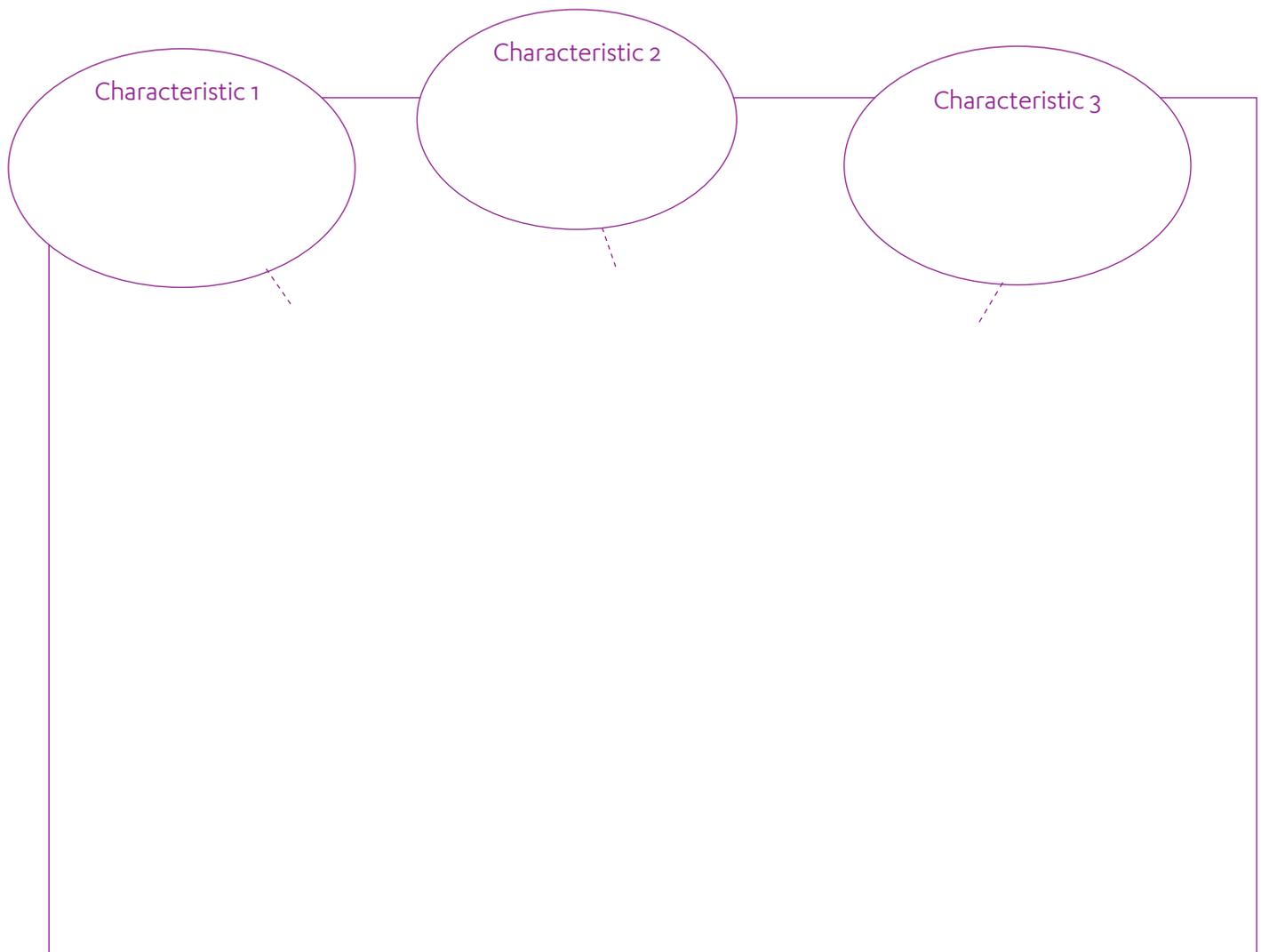
Characteristic 1

Characteristic 2

Characteristic 3

Artist:

Title:

Year:

2 **Find a classmate and show him/her this work of art. Don't say anything yet. What is his/her first reaction to seeing this work?**

....

....

3 **Now explain why you think this work is beautiful (be as persuasive as possible). Are you able to convince your classmate?**

Yes / No ....

....

Now continue with your own beauty research. Let's see if there are also ugly works of art in the museum.

4 **Look in the surrounding rooms for a work of art that you do not find aesthetically pleasing. Write down the title data.**

Artist:
Title:
Year:

Explain why you think this work is ugly based on the following visual aspects:

Composition: ....

Shape ....

Colour: ....

Space: ....

5 **Can you find more works of art by this artist? Do you think all of his/her works are ugly, or is it just this one? Explain:**

....

....

Suppose you could change one visual aspect to make the work more beautiful in your opinion. Which aspect would that be?

....

....

In 1994 two Russian artists, Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid, attempted to find out what people find beautiful and ugly. They developed their own theory based on this research. Let's see whether their theory is correct!

6 **Choose a work that appeals to you, in which one or more people can be seen.**

Artist:
Title:
Year:

Are the people nude or dressed? --

Describe how the people are depicted here. In your answer, use (one of) the following words:

Realistic / Abstract / Painting / Style / Shape.

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7 **Now choose a landscape that you like.**

Artist:
Title:
Year:

Are the brushstrokes fine or coarse? --

Describe the spaciousness in the painting. Is there any perspective or depth? How did the artist achieve that?

According to Komar and Melamid, only 7% of Dutch people like to see nudity in a painting. They prefer to see people dressed. And no less than 70% of Dutch people prefer a painting with fine brushstrokes.

8 **How about you? With the choices you made, is their theory correct?**

Completely correct ← ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯ → Completely incorrect

This theory received a lot of criticism. Can you think why?

Kröller-Müller

9 The Kröller-Müller Museum is curious about the taste of its visitors. We reward everyone with a personal taste recommendation for our painting collection! Complete the chart below for yourself and go to the room indicated on the map:

DO Y♥U LIKE...

Realistic

Abstract

Loosely painted

Precisely painted

Straight lines

Flowing lines

Spy

Postman

Dancer

Goddess

With title

No title

Birds

Cars
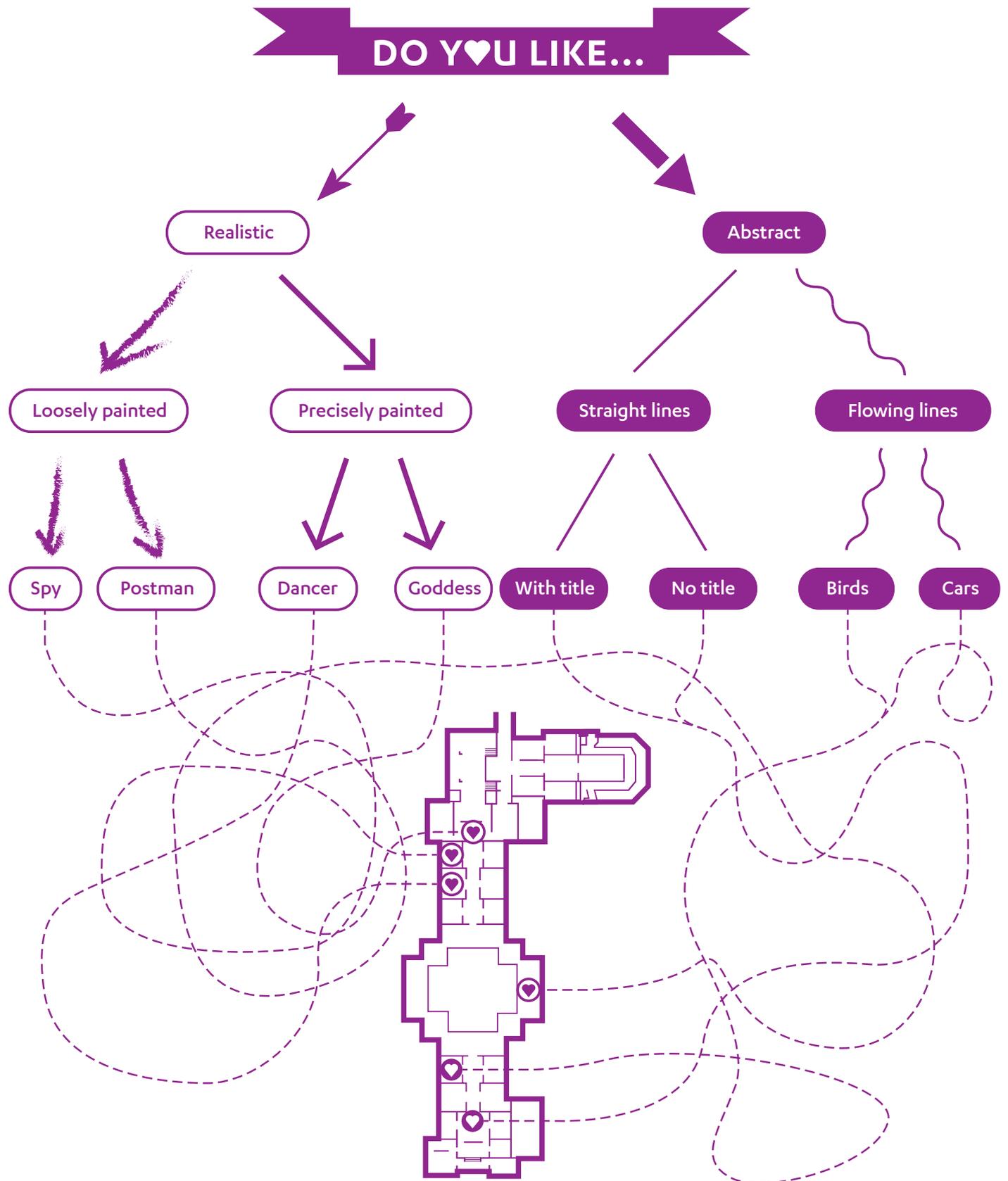
And? Did the chart bring you to a work of art that you liked? Now it's time for the other visitors! Ask three visitors if they want to participate in your 'taste research'.

10 **Ask the questions from the chart and note the results and reactions.**

Test subject 1 - Result: ....

Reaction: ....

Test subject 2 - Result: ....

Reaction: ....

Test subject 3 - Result: ....

Reaction: ....

What are your main conclusions?

....

....

....

....

....

X! **Extra:**
Take a selfie with the work of art that you found ugly in assignment 4. Keep the photo and look at it again in a few years to see if you still agree with yourself.