

Taking a Crit

Art & Design

How to get value out of feedback without defending or collapsing under it.

Your only job while the work is up is to gather information.

During

Write everything down; do not filter yet

Do not explain or defend the work

Ask questions to clarify, not to argue

Notice what several people say separately

Sit with disagreement; it is data

Afterwards

Sort into agree, disagree, do not know

Look for the repeated comment first

One person's taste is not a verdict

Decide what to act on; it is your work

Warning signs

Explaining the piece as it is discussed

Hearing only the negative comments

Changing everything after one remark

Remember

The work is being read, not you

Nobody spends time critiquing dull work

The final decision stays with you

The comment that stings is often the one already nagging at you. That coincidence is worth taking seriously.