**Ah Xian’s *Metaphysica***

**Writing a critical review**

The review is to be written for the quarterly Journal *Art and Australia*. It is to be no longer than 750 words. You will need to consider the fact that you will be writing for an informed audience. You will need to consider the point of view from which you will be writing.

**Self Portrait: Renaissance to Contemporary Frames**/ **Cultural Frame**  How do the portraits reflect the time in which they were painted in terms of:

* + Politics
  + Religion
  + World events
  + Art movements (you could set up an argument for or against traditional versus contemporary)

**A post-modern approach**

* In what ways have these works been innovative?
* How have changes in technology affected their artmaking practice?
* How do the myths and histories created around artists and artworks influence your understanding of the  works?
* **Conceptual Framework: artist-artwork-audience-world The Role of the Self Portrait**
* To show pride in the artist's profession
* A signature of style
* To experiment with techniques
* Experimenting in conveying a variety of emotions
* As a vehicle for artists to assume different roles
* To show status of the sitter
* To show the idea of patronage

**Conceptual Framework: artist-audience**  The relationships between the artist and his/her audience:

* Is it an intimate one?
* Is the audience allowed in to the privacy of the artist's psychological space
* Does the work demand a response from its viewer?
* Is the work confronting in pose, gaze composition etc?  These are only a few suggestions. Before you begin you might like to read some current examples of writing by Australian art critics.