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Art Appreciation

Individual Project 2

American Intercontinental University Online

What is Art? Why is it so often criticized? Who decides the value of it? The Oxford Dictionary defines art as “the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.” ([www.oxforddictionaries.com](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com)) However, the Merriam-Webster dictionary says that art is “something that is created with imagination and skill and that is beautiful or that expresses important ideas or feelings, works created by artists. Paintings, sculptures, etc. that are created to be beautiful or to express important ideas or feelings.” ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com))

I believe art to be valued by the viewer for “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” (Plato). I think art consists of emotional expression and that it comes in many different forms. Paintings, sculptures, graffiti, tattoos, and even the way a woman wears her make-up can be considered artistic. My definition of art is anything that captures one’s attention or that is pleasing to the eye. The following are examples of eight different types of art and my reason for choosing these particular pieces to represent the definition of each type of art.

Painting: Leonardo Di Vinci’s painting of “the last supper” is an excellent example of art expressed by paint. This painting shows Jesus Christ with his twelve disciples and the shock and concern on their faces when he tells them that one of them will betray him. The dramatic facial expressions in this piece is what defines art to me. ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com))

Sculpture: Ercole Ferrata Angel at famous Ponte Sant Angelo bridge. I constitute this as art because of the significant symbolism and religious belief that is revealed in it. The vision is of an angel holding a cross while expressing a sorrowful look. It is beautiful and holds a lot of emotional connection to it. ([www.123rf.com](http://www.123rf.com))

Architecture: Emperor Vespasian and his son Titus’s vision and building of the Roman Colosseum is a great example of art because of the graphic detail and sculpting of the arch ways. ([www.rome.com](http://www.rome.com))

Photography: Artistic photography to me is a photograph taken in 1932 during the building of the RCA building in New York where a dozen construction men dangle 840 feet above the ground and take their lunch break with what appears to be no care in the world judging by the care free body language and expressions on their faces. ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com))

Printmaking: Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (Republic of Venice.) Painted graphic and realistic photos that signified a dramatic event or era such as the great depression. Again the expressions in this piece is what defines it as art. ([www.ranker.com](http://www.ranker.com))

Conceptual art: Sol Lewitt is a famous 3D artist. His work entitled “Incomplete open cubes” and use of items to make this vision come alive is what defines art. It jumps out at the viewer and therefore captures their attention. ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com))

Installation art: To me this art is created by “thinking outside the box”. This type of art is unusual to the common man or woman. Interesting and fun because there are no guidelines or limitations. The Nok Terracotta tribe and their sculptures or terracotta heads are prime examples of this type of art. ([www.gsl.net](http://www.gsl.net))

Performance art: The Cabaret Voltaire in 1916 held various artists in one place that gathered to express their artistic talents such as poetry readings, dancing, paintings, plays, and re-enactments of historic events. Emmy Hemmings and Hugo Ball are a couple of famous artists that took part in these gatherings. ([www.complex.com](http://www.complex.com))

## References

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