

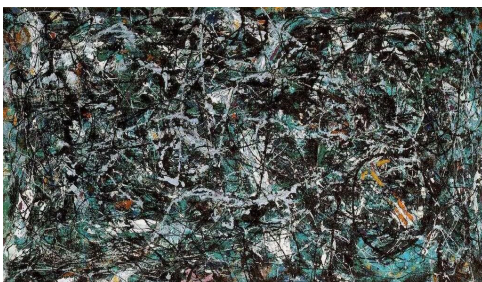
Aesthetics

Essential Question: What is art? What defines “good art”?

Objectives: To encourage students to think about what art means, what criteria determine “good art”, and whether or not beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Introduction: Famous Works of Art Activity (15 minutes) - Jazmyne

- Have students compare famous pieces of art
 - Maybe compare the image of abstract vs. realistic
- Ask the students to judge them based on their criteria of “good art”
 - Example:
 - Abstract:
 - Full Fathom Five by Jackson Pollock
 - Three Musicians by Pablo Picasso
 - Realistic:
 - The Water Lily Pond by Claude Monet
 - Campbell’s Soup Cans by Andy Warhol
- Questions:
 - What do you think of each painting? Do they have any meaning to you?
 - Which painting do you like better? Which painting would you prefer to have hung up in your house?
 - What makes one painting better than another? Is it meaningful?
 - Is the best art the most beautiful art?



Activity (15 min) — Sophia

- Have each student produce a work of art that could go into a museum
- Offer the option to use various different mediums (photograph, drawing, etc)
 - Lay out the artwork on the table and have everyone look at them.
 - Then, go around in a circle and have everyone discuss what makes their drawing “art”
- Have each student talk about something they liked in someone else’s drawing or an emotion someone else’s picture made them feel
- What is good art?
 - Is there a right or wrong way to think about art?
 - Why do we have different opinions about art?
 - Subjectivity of Art
 - If all art is subjective, why do museums exist?

What is art?

Cont. Discussion (anticipating responses/potential pathways) - Sam

- Art and Intent: Does something have to try to create art to do so?
 - ‘art’ from non-human sources
 - Nature
 - Animals making art
 - AI making art
 - Human Creation
 - Is every human creation art?
 - If some are not, why?
 - Things not intended to be art
 - Imitation, like the AI
 - Can someone set out to make art and fail?
 - Can someone create art accidentally?
 - Authorial intent
- Where does art come from?
 - Forms
 - art is an expression of pure archetypes of emotion/ideals
 - i.e. beauty, joy, etc.
 - Worldly Inspiration
 - Reflection of other concrete aspects of the world
 - Objects, locations, events, personal emotions, etc.
 - Self
 - Art does not need something on which it bases itself/does not necessarily represent anything else
 - Probably tied to a loose definition of art
- General Skepticism
 - Is art definition important?

- For those that do not find a distinction between art objects and other objects, the classification of something as art might as well not exist
- Indefinable
 - Abstract concept
 - Not inherently tied to the art objects being described
 - the media through which art is produced may be effectively infinite/indefinable as well
 - (paint/canvas, sculpture, film, written, audio, etc.)
- Should not be defined
 - Limiting of future potential art/creativity