

Chapter 2: What Is a Work of Art?

Select the letter of the choice that BEST answers the question:

1. Which of the following cannot be a work of art?
 - a. a car
 - b. a sunset
 - c. a photograph
 - d. potteryAnswer: [b]
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2. Which of the following terms means sustained attention and loss of self-awareness?
 - a. participation
 - b. content
 - c. artistic form
 - d. subject matterAnswer: [a]
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3. In order for something to be art it must
 - a. be a painting
 - b. be in a museum
 - c. be beautiful
 - d. be human madeAnswer: [d]
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4. Artistic form implies a strong degree of perceptible...
 - a. unity
 - b. lines
 - c. shape
 - d. balanceAnswer: [a]
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5. Which of the following is some value expressed in a work of art?
 - a. participation
 - b. content
 - c. artistic form
 - d. subject matterAnswer: [d]
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6. Which of the following paintings represents an idealized female nude?
 - a. Renoir, *Bather Arranging Her Hair*

- b. Giorgione, *Sleeping Venus*
- c. Valadon, *Reclining Nude*
- d. Neel, *Margaret Evans Pregnant*

Answer: [b]

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7. It is easier to change parts around without losing meaning in
- a. Goya's *May 3, 1808*
 - b. Cezanne's *Mont Sainte Victoire*
 - c. Litchenstein, *Torpedo...Los!*
 - d. Adams' *Execution in Saigon*

Answer: [d]

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8. Which of the following is true of spectator attention?
- a. It comes more naturally to children.
 - b. It is inefficient by nature.
 - c. It does not allow us to participate in a work of art.
 - d. It enables us to lose ourselves in a work of art.

Answer: [c]

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9. Which of the following means the organization of a medium that results in clarifying a value expressed in a work of art?
- a. participation
 - b. content
 - c. artistic form
 - d. subject matter

Answer: [c]

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10. A participative experience involves
- a. participating with other people in enjoying a work of art
 - b. feeling sympathy for some character in a work of art
 - c. identifying with some character in a work of art
 - d. undivided and sustained attention to a work of art

Answer: [d]

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11. According to the authors, which of the following basic distinctions of art is the most fundamental?
- a. participation
 - b. content
 - c. artistic form
 - d. subject matter

Answer: [a]

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12. Who of the following said, “If the world were clear, art would not exist”?

- a. Vincent Van Gogh
- b. Albert Camus
- c. Edward Weston
- d. Clive Bell

Answer: [b]

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13. Anyone who has participated with cummings’ “l(a)” will understand

- a. the personality of cummings better
- b. the poem is a kind of crossword puzzle
- c. the isolation of loneliness and death
- d. none of the above

Answer: [c]

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14. Lichtenstein used comic strips as subject matter because

- a. he could make money with such a commercial subject matter
- b. the comic strips were almost art and thus easily improved into art
- c. of the stark simplicity and power of comic strips
- d. he felt they were beautiful

Answer: [c]

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Essay questions:

1. Look at a work of art (the professor may choose from <http://www.artcyclopedia.com>) and explain what makes it art using the guidelines set forth in this chapter.

2. Do you agree with the authors’ assertion that participation is the most fundamental of the basic distinctions of art? Why? If you disagree, which do you think is the most important, and why? Do you have any experiences with art to draw on to support your claims?