

Week 1 Discussion 2: What Is a Work of Art?

2 2 unread replies. 3 3 replies.

Required Resources

Read/review the following resources for this activity:

- Textbook: Chapter 2
- Lesson
- Minimum of 1 scholarly source

Initial Post Instructions

If art lacks a clear definition, what criteria are used to determine what a work of art *is*? Please look at several works on any museum website to discuss what constitutes "art." Some major museums include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, or National Gallery of Art, or consider finding a local museum. The permanent collection is normally under the **Collections** link, but feel free to explore the entire website for your selection.

For the initial post, address the following:

- **What approaches should we take in responding to a work of art?**

the only approach it would be an open-minded approach. What I mean by that is the person responding to a piece of art must have all background knowledge of the artists of the painting of the time. In response to the quote "matters of taste for not disputable" Jacobus and Martin state "what that saying means is there is no accounting for what people like in arts for beauty is in the eye of the beholder." (Section 1, para. 1). That being said no matter how someone tells you to perceive something that matter has no significance. Even with me saying having an open-minded approach will not change someone's mind who is being closed minded and judges it right away without any background knowledge so telling people how to think is something that cannot happen. Even though this may seem kind of contraindicating I do believe people should respond to art with a very open mind but that doesn't matter what I say because people will perceive art in the way they want to.

Select an example of art that fits your definition of art and provide an example of non-art (either from the site or in the world around you).