

What is Art?

An introduction to the concept of art

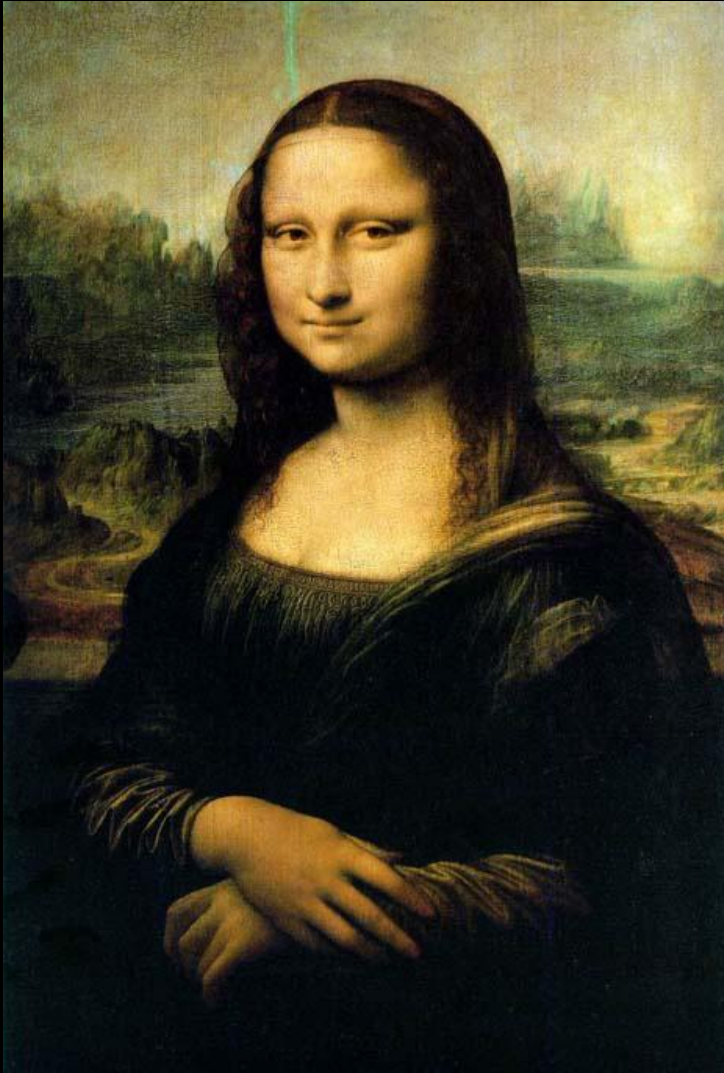
Objectives of the Activity

- Determine a definition of art
- Decide what is art and what is not art
- Define terms related to the viewing of art
- Examine two images critically

In small groups answer the following Questions

- What is art?
- What are different types of art?
- How does art influence society?
- Why is art important?
- What sort of messages do art have?

Image #1



- Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Image #2



- Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Image #3



- Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Image #4



- Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Image #5



Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Image #6



- Is this art? Why or why not? What elements does it have or not have?

Elements of Art

- Perspective
- Light
- Color
- Form
- Motion
- Proportion
- Symbols
- Lines

Perspective

- Perspective is the way in which artists create an illusion of depth on a flat surface. For hundreds of years painters have tried to represent accurately a scene that exists in three dimensions on a two-dimensional canvas. One of the ways to create this illusion is to make the objects that are far away smaller than those that are closer to the viewer.

Light

- Just as stage designers use lighting to spotlight a performer, painters will often highlight important elements in paintings

Color

- Use of different colors provide emphasis, emotion, etc. Often colors highlight parts of an image to draw specific attention to it.

Form

- By using light and shadows, artists give volume to their subjects. One way one can give figures three-dimensional form is to reflect light off their bodies and paint shadows cast by them.

Motion

- Depicting motion is a technique painters use to keep our attention focused on the picture.

Proportion

- Proportion usually refers to the way different elements in a painting relate to each other in terms of size.

Symbols

- Many artists include items that symbolize other items, emotions, beliefs, ideas, etc.

Lines

- An identifiable path of a point moving in space. It can vary in width, direction, and length.



The Peasant Dance, Pieter Bruegel the Elder



Looking @ Art

- Light
- Perspective
- Movement
- Color
- Form
- Proportion
- Symbolism
- Lines

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Giovanni Arnolfini and His Bride
Jan Van Eyck, 1434



