



What is
"Art"?



Manet, *Olympia*, 1863

Vocabulary

Form: refers to an object's shape and structure, either in two dimensions (for example, a figure painted on a canvas) or in three dimensions (such as a statue carved from a marble block).

Composition: refers to how an artist composes (organizes) forms in an artwork, either by placing shapes on a flat surface or by arranging forms in space.

Medium: type of material the artist uses to create their work.

Technique: the process an artist employs, such as applying paint to canvas with a brush, and the distinctive, personal way they handle materials.

Focal Point: the center of interest or activity.

Vocabulary

Line: A line can be understood as the path of a point moving in space, an invisible line of sight, or a visible drawing.

Contour line: A continuous line defining an object's outer shape.

Light: Natural light, or sunlight, is whole or *additive light*. As the sum of all the wavelengths composing the visible *spectrum*, it may be disassembled or fragmented into the individual colors of the spectral band. The painter's light in art—the light reflected from pigments and objects—is *subtractive light*. Paint pigments produce their individual colors by reflecting a segment of the spectrum while absorbing all the rest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dH1YH0zEAik>

Vocabulary

Hue: is the property giving color its name.

Value/ Tonality: the degree of lightness or darkness of a hue.

Intensity/ Saturation: the purity of a color, its brightness or dullness.

Primary Colors: the three basic colors-red, yellow, and blue.

Secondary Colors: the colors that result from mixing pairs of primaries.
Orange (red and yellow). Purple (red and blue). Green (yellow and blue).

Complementary Colors: represent the pairing of a primary color and the secondary color created from mixing the two other primary colors-red and green, yellow and purple, and blue and orange. They “complement,” or complete, each other, one absorbing colors the other reflects.



Manet, *Luncheon on the Grass*, 1863

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Venus of Willendorf, 25,000-20,000 B.C.E

Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, 1917











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BY BILL MUDDRON
(WITH APOLOGIES TO
SAM SIMON, BILL DAKLEY, JOCH
WEINSTEIN, CONAN O'BRIEN, DAVID
SILVERMAN, TIM BROOKS, AL JEAN,
JOHN VITTI, MIKE REISS, JOHN SWARTZWELDER,
WALLACE WOODDARSKY, GREG DANIELS, DAVE
MIRKIN, GEORGE MEYER, JEFF MARTIN, BRAD BIRD
AND MATT GROENING.)

*Art in the modern era is not something
commanded by papal decree but is made
because the creator is compelled to do so (43).*

Leonardo saw his painting and drawing skills as one aspect of his myriad talents and one type of work that he did. When he wrote about his abilities to his future patron, the Milanese duke Ludovico Sforza, Leonardo described his knowledge of civil and military engineering, his inventions, and only at the very end of the letter did he mention that he could paint (52).