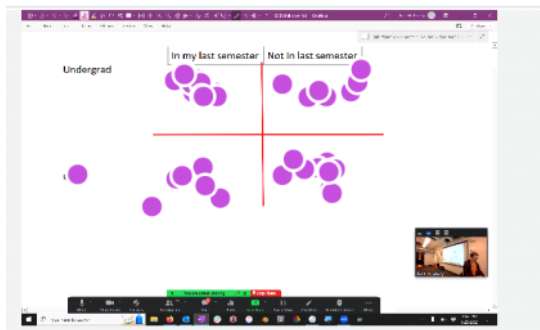
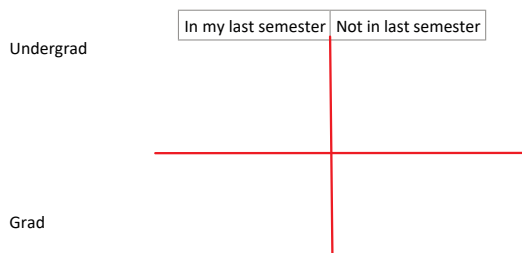
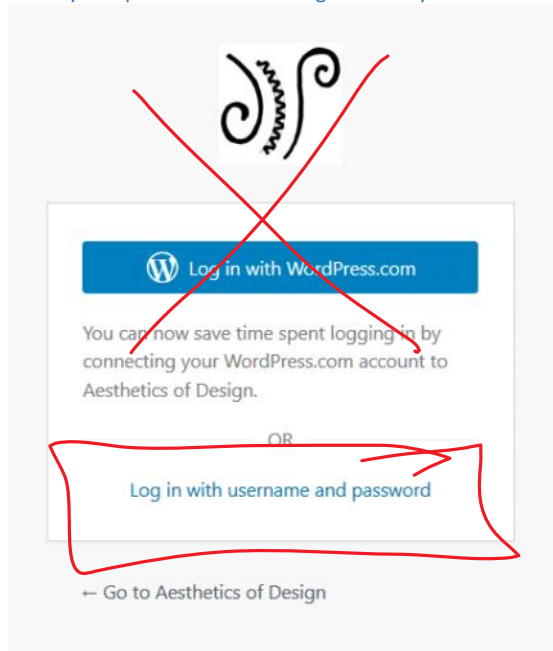


02 Definition of Art

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:17 PM

Today: Admin stuff, Art definition,

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our website

Add SA

Aesthetics

Prof. Jean Hertzberg

History of Western Art

- Science once was Art
 - All human endeavors were 'arts'
- Early university structure: liberal arts
 - Grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy
- 18th Century: Fine Arts (and art criticism) were invented
 - painting, sculpture, architecture, music and poetry
 - Other endeavors (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math: STEM) are excluded from 'art'
 - Some 'arts' were demoted to 'crafts': creation of objects with a function

ar·ti·fice

/ ˈɑːrdeɪʃəs /

noun

noun: artifice; plural noun: artifices

clever or cunning devices or expedients, especially as used to trick or deceive others.

artifice and outright fakery

synonyms: trickery, deceit, deception, duplicity, guile, cunning, artfulness, wiliness, craftiness, slyness, chicanery. More

Origin

LATIN

ars

art-

art

LATIN

OLD FRENCH

→ artificium

→ artifice

workmanship

late Middle English

LATIN

facere

make

late Middle English (in the sense 'workmanship'): from Old French, from Latin *artificium*, based on *ars*, *art-* 'art' + *facere* 'make.'

<https://www.google.com/search?q=artifice&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8#q=artificial>

ar·ti·fi·cial

/ˈɑːdəˈfɪʃəl/

adjective

adjective: artificial

- made or produced by human beings rather than occurring naturally, typically as a copy of something natural.
"her skin glowed in the artificial light"
• (of a situation or concept) not existing naturally; contrived or false.
"the artificial division of people into age groups"
synonyms: synthetic, fake, imitation, mock, ersatz, faux, substitute, replica, reproduction, More man-made, manufactured, fabricated, inorganic.
- (of a person or a person's behavior) insincere or affected.
"an artificial smile"
synonyms: insincere, feigned, false, unnatural, contrived, put-on, exaggerated, forced, labored, strained, hollow, More informal pretend, phony, bogus
"an artificial smile"
antonyms: genuine

Origin



late Middle English: from Old French *artificial* or Latin *artificialis*, from *artificium* 'handicraft' (see *artifice*).

Art and Aesthetics

What is art? What good is art? What is the purpose of art?

- Art theory
- Aesthetics

Major Art Theories

What is art? What good is art?

- Realism
 - Plato (500 BC): Representations should be truthful. Beauty = truth. Human perceptions are fallible, invisible true world has ideal 'Forms'.
 - Aristotle: Beauty = both appearance (order, harmony, symmetry) and functionality. Form is inseparable from the purpose of art: to represent.
- Expressionism (1850's)
 - Art is to embody and stimulate emotion, often through metaphor.
 - Cognitivism: Art can teach. Dewey's 'aesthetic experience' gives meaning and value.
- Formalism (1900's): **Modernism**
 - Only the form is important. Emotion, narrative, functionality are irrelevant.
 - Abstract art context
- Postmodernism (1968)
 - Art and aesthetics cannot be separated from the social, ethical and political world.
 - Pluralism. No theory is absolute; context is essential.

Barrett, Terry, *Why Is That Art?: Aesthetics and Criticism of Contemporary Art*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, USA, 2011.

Plato hated art; can never attain truth

Forsey (*Aesthetics of Design*), pg 23: Formalism (Clive Bell's) is response to the 'demise of mimetic definitions of art'

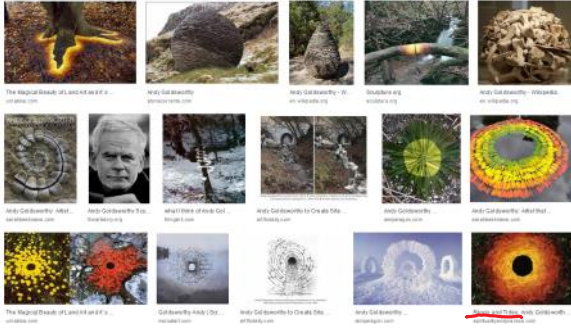
Plato hated art; can never attain truth

Forsey (*Aesthetics of Design*), pg 23: Formalism (Clive Bell's) is response to the 'demise of mimetic definitions of art'

Pg26 Clive Bell, 1881-1964: to be art, must have 'significant form', and trigger an 'aesthetic emotion' = an emotion separate from all others. Barrett pg125. Evokes the 'yum'. Art is defined by this reaction.

Forsey says defining art as possessing a (this) characteristic is too narrow. Don't confuse definition with evaluation.

Andy Goldsworthy = example of Formalism and upcycling



Breakout rooms: Which art theory is closest to your beliefs?