Art. *What is it?*

Art is **aesthetic**, or creative, appreciative, and inventive. But art is much more than mere craft or decoration, for art it is **laden** with meaning. Art means objects of highly individual character, rather than routine objects produced in quantity according to set patterns….can you think of some routine objects in your life that fit this description? List some examples- *(Class discussion)*

Art & Creativity

Art requires that we learn the style and outlook of a country, period, and artist if we are to understand it properly. Even the most painstaking piece of **craft** does not deserve to be called **art** unless it **involves a leap of the imagination**. Art is formed from our response to it; the hand tries to carry out the commands of the imagination. **Uncertainty and the need to take a chance** should be the essence of an artist's work.

*"Artistic creation is too subtle and intimate an experience to permit an exact step-by-step description; birth is a **metaphor.**" – History of Art, Janson*

A Craftsman Makes, Applied Artists Artist Create

The making of art is a strange and risky business in which the maker never quite knows what he or she is making until he or she has actually made it; **like a game of find & seek**.

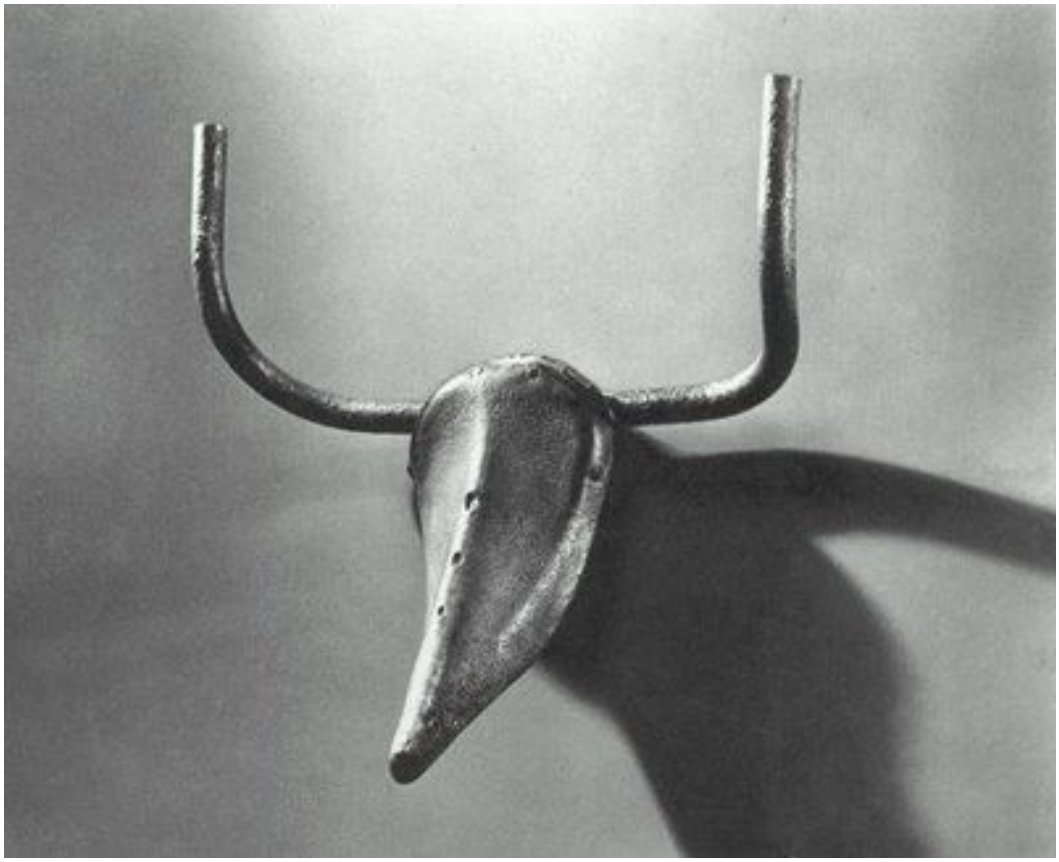
Sometimes art impresses us with the "finding", and sometimes with the "seeking."

Example of finding: Putting simple objects together to make a profound statement. Check out these fun and simple creations using simple everyday objects!





Example of finding: **Picasso's** *Head of a Bull*



1942

The sculpture Bull's Head was created by the artist Pablo Picasso in the spring of 1942 *(WWII)* in his studio in the Rue des Grands-Augustins. It is a sculpture made from everyday objects: the union of a handlebar and a bicycle saddle.

Why did Picasso create the Bulls head?

He says the sculpture is "a moment of wit and whimsy ... both childlike and highly sophisticated in its simplicity, it stands as an assertion of the transforming power of the human imagination at a time when human values were under siege." The sculpture is in the permanent collection of the Picasso Museum in Paris.

What does the bull represent to Picasso?

Above all else, it is a complexly fragile symbol of power. Some critics have speculated that Picasso felt many personal parallels with the bull, incorporating it into his work as a symbolic form of self-portrait. That it is he himself who is floating above the carnage, bearing witness to the horrors below.

Example of seeking: Michelangelo's unfinished statue of St. Matthew. Let's learn about Michelangelo's unfinished sculptures, or what he calls: "non-finito"

[Michelangelo's Prisoners & Slaves Art History Lesson]



So... What then is the difference between a Craftsman & an Applied Artist and an Artist?

The **craftsman attempts what he/she knows to be possible**, an **applied artist beautifies the useful**, and **the artist is always driven to be original** and **attempt the impossible or improbable**. What sets the artist apart is not so much the desire to seek, but **that mysterious ability to find which we call talent**. Can you think of some talented artists who created original works of art? List some examples: (Class Discussion)

The Craftsman

A craftsman is a person who is skilled in a particular craft. A craftsman creates an object for the sake of the object itself, and of its usefulness to someone else. ***Artists create for the sake of self-expression, of connection, to tell a story**.





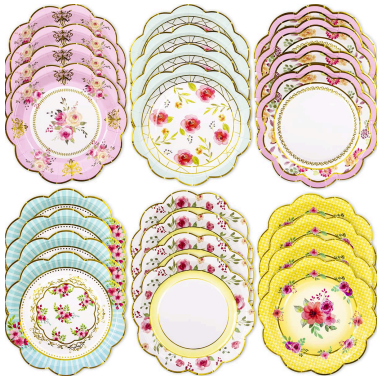


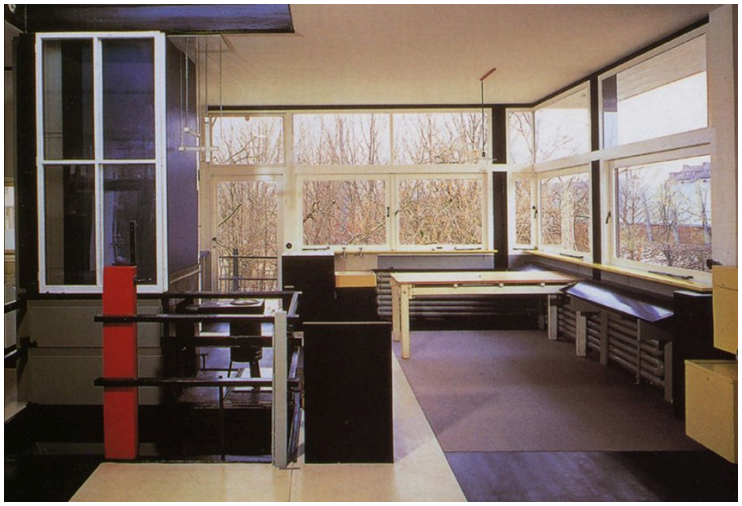
The Applied Artist

Applied art is any form of art created with a specific practical purpose in mind. People who work in the applied arts are **illustrators, typographers, interior decorators, textile and fashion designers, china, furniture, and clothing designers, industrial designers, product design, architecture design, and graphic artists.** All of these professions **"beautify the useful."** Therefore, the applied arts lie in between craft and pure art.

Applied art is often used for commercial or utilitarian purposes, such as product design or architecture. Applied Arts beautifies the useful!
Learn more about Applied Arts









The Fine Artist

Artists create for the sake of self-expression, of connection, and to tell a story. The fine arts are **any of the art forms, such as sculpture, painting, or music,** used to create such art. Fine art, also referred to as "high art," has long been held up as the **highest standard of artistic expression**. Fine artists attempt the impossible, the improbable, and make work that is purely created to be **aesthetically pleasing**.

The fine arts are **intended strictly for contemplation**. They occupy a central place in culture, as illustrations/reflections of a time and a feeling. Art requires that we learn the style and outlook of a country, period, and artist if we are to understand it properly. Even the most painstaking piece of **craft** does not deserve to be called **art** unless it **involves a leap of the imagination**. Art is formed from our response to it; the hand tries to carry out the commands of the imagination. **Uncertainty and the need to take a chance** should be the essence of an artist's work.

Fine 'Art Movement' Link: History & Artists of Surrealism

Below: Pablo Picasso's mural Guernica, 1937



How can we Study Art?

All works of art anywhere are part of chains that link them to their predecessors… "No man is an island"… the same can be said of works of art.

The sum total of these chains makes a web in which every work of art occupies it's own specific place which we call a tradition….without tradition, no originality would be possible! **A craftsman follows tradition; an artist makes the leap of the imagination, becomes an innovator, and helps to form the next tradition.** Let's list a chain of traditions that are linked to prior traditions: (i.e.: Old stone age cave paintings led to Primitive art, to Egyptian art, to Greek art, to Roman art, to Gothic art, to the Renaissance, to Realism, and to the modern world. Can you name some traditions in art from our modern world? **(You may think of Music traditions as well!)**

Tradition

⇩

Artist makes a leap of the imagination

⇩

Next tradition or part of the web

Everyone is an Artist!

Everyone is an artist, whether you study the culinary arts and become a chef, writing and become an author, or the arts and become a musician or visual artist… you do have your own personal style!

To find your personal style, you must remember that every budding artist starts out on the level of craft, by imitating other works of art, learning skills and techniques, and establishing ways of seeing through drawing, painting, and carving. As art students, it is your job to have fun and remain open-minded to new techniques and ideas… perseverance will lead to your ability to problem solve. As you form a new appreciation for art, you will begin to find your own style or signature for your own work, and your creativity will blossom as you begin to understand and solve artistic problems.

It is my wish that you enjoy art this year and many years to come. Never be afraid to take a chance and most of all, always keep a positive attitude and a smile on your face!