

Purpose: This assignment is intended to help you review your summer reading, *But Is It Art: An Introduction to Art Theory* by Cynthia Freeland. You will need to answer all of the following questions – there are several per chapter. Each chapter in the book more or less laid out ideas on some major themes in art theory, your job is to demonstrate that you understand these concepts in your writing.

As you respond to each question, make sure you support your point of view with specific evidence taken from the book. The goal for art history is to not just learn to express your opinion about art, but also to be as convincing as possible to share your ideas.

Directions: To complete this assignment, you should use your Google account to create a Google Doc and answer each of the questions within that document. You must share your Google Doc only with me at this time, as I will be reading it over and making suggestions. Your responses are due by Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> upon entering class. We may or may not be sharing your response with the class.

## 1 Blood and Beauty

1. What makes the use of blood art? Why would blood not be considered as art?
2. What is the difference between ritual as art and modern performance art that may simulate a ritual?
3. Summarize Immanuel Kant's theory of Beauty.
4. Bullough asserted a sort of 'psychical distance' that was needed to experience art. He asserted that sexual or political subjects tended to block any aesthetic consciousness or removed that distance. Why do you think this is the case and what do you think he means?

## 2 Paradigms and Purposes

5. How does the cathedral at Chartres demonstrate the medieval aesthetic of allegory? Why do you think allegory was used by medieval intellectuals?
6. At Chartres there are no artist signatures. Why do you think there is no trace of individual contributions here? What does this say about the purpose of art at this time?
7. Modern art, in particular, tends to be extremely confusing. As compared to the earlier eras of art discussed in this chapter, does the relaxation of how art is defined contribute to this confusion? How so? Explain using specific examples.

## 3 Cultural Crossings

8. Can we truly know or experience art of other cultures as they themselves know it? How does this affect the concept of art?
9. How do our expectations color our own experiences of art? How do they affect our "authentic" experience of art from other cultures?

## 4 Money, Markets, Museums

10. How does the *museum* affect art? Does it make art more or less accessible? Does it expand or restrict notions of art? Explain your answer with specific examples.

11. How do the demographics of the museum audience drive the art world? Explain using specific examples.
12. How is the market for art affect the value of art? What are some of the reasons why private collectors collect art?

## 5 Gender, Genius, and Guerilla Girls

13. How does gender affect art? What does it affect most – the art, the artist, or the audience? Explain using specific examples.
14. How does the notion of genius change throughout history? How does this affect our views of artists and their work? Does genius cause us to value the art or the artist more?
15. How does the use of a *canon* affect how art is valued? Does it affect which kinds of art are valued over others? Does a *canon* limit artistic expression? How?

## 6 Cognition, Creation, Comprehension

16. Explain the difference between cognitive and expression theories of art. How are they different from each other when applied to interpretations of art?
17. What is the basic difference between Tolstoy and Freud in regards to expression theory?
18. What is Foucault's major contribution to the interpretation of art?

## 7 Digitizing and Disseminating

19. Explain what Benjamin means by the "aura" of an art object.
20. Does mass media serve a democratizing purpose or an indoctrinating one? Or both? Explain your answer fully with specific examples.