

Artyfact Pilot episode

What is art?

Hello and welcome to the pilot episode of Artyfact where we will be discussing what is art?

As by the Oxford Dictionary definition, art is

'The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.

'the art of the Renaissance'

However I find this to be lacking in consistency and constraint, mainly due to how open of a definition it is. Many people would argue that the point of art, that anything and everything is a form of art. But this leaves us with many contradictory's and hypocrisy's within the artistic community, this is also potentially due to the fact that art in essence is the study of self and ones surroundings.

So to give some much needed structure to what in spirit is a abstract definition of a subject, here are 10 rules which might help distinguish art from other forms of expression.

1. Human Intervention

All art must have a human involved within the process of the production of said media , this is our first point of structure, if a human wasn't part of the creation, then the object being natural in origin isn't art.

2. Transformative

Transformative in essence means to change something, thus if evidence change in a pieces state or message then it is transformative in nature. This allows us to distinguish the difference between everyday objects and Found Object Art or copyright infringement and Appropriation Art

3 Categorisation

Can said work of art be classified by genre, medium, intent or meaning?

This enables us to identify the difference between a collection of people, thoughts and beliefs as not being art. As per the previous definition religion in itself could be classified as an art as it operates as a philosophy and creative outlet, however we know this not be true but religious art is still very much a genre in itself, the same

goes for art moments and mediums. Thus a collective can't be classified as a single art piece but a collection of works under a set definition

4. Purpose

Was the goal of this photograph to produce and illicit sexual desires or to convey a deeper complex meaning of human instinct? Or maybe it was to convey innocence or the repulsive nature of human kind. The ambition of the artist is what separates pornography from a tasteful nude, the line is thin but clearly there to anyone with a bit of tact.

5. Function

Does the item produced have a set function? If so then it might be classified as design instead of art. It a tightrope between the two but that small difference makes a massive impact on the views we hold to said item. If its meant to be used then it isn't going to be hung on the wall for visual appreciation, but instead for its application.

6. Reproduction

Simply put the more something is copied the more the original meaning of the image is watered down, for example the painting The Mona Lisa so infamous that it has been parodied and reproduced so many times that all the mysticism behind it is gone. I knew every detail of this painting before I even got to see the real thing and by then it had nothing left to show me. Something else along these lines are street artists and perhaps print makers, when I was away in Barcelona their was a street artist that would do their work near my hotel; he produced the exact same image around 10 times a day, to the point where he could do it without looking. At this point it is no longer a form of art but the work of a printer. Their was no passion or meaning to this image he made many years ago, just a cookie cutter landscape with little to no feeling behind it. And as for those that make print's their is a reason we give a limited amount to any image, it is to persevere its worth, authority and spread among the public. The more something is seen the more accustom we become to it.

7. Motivation

What was the artists motive in producing said work, if it was only for finical gain then it isn't art but a form of work. Not to say you shouldn't get paid for your work, however their is something to be said about art for arts sake. Art should be a form of expression and spiritual freedom, once money starts to get involved it starts to have constrains put on it. No one wants a picture of a dead cat in their house after all. But that dead cat might be a metaphor for something else, which no one other than yourself may truly understands. A commission is still art however the work is only a show of your skill not a show of your creativity. Lastly once large corporations started to get involved your work may lose all its soul and passion as the charts of compatibility come before creativity.

8. Skill

Someones ability isn't the determining factor and never should be anyone can produce a masterpiece, however that masterpiece will only be a master piece to those that can appreciate it. Everyone has a different view as such anything can be a masterpiece, but the draw back is that anything can also be a pile of garbage. Skill isn't needed in art the only thing that is needed is creativity, time and the nerve to keep only trying. Although skill is the optional defining point of showing ones dedication and particle in said art form, their skill is only a indication that they have spend longer in said medium. Its true some people are born with such a talent but they are few and far between and their natural skill is never as sharp as the knife wilded by a practiced butcher.

9. Knowledge

One's knowledge might be the largest dividing factor between art and splattered paint, what makes the difference between an abstract image and something with true value; is the philosophy and meaning behind it. Age can be said to be part of this factor as a child's work will always be to innocent in both the understanding of connotation and denotation. Every drop of paint tells a story, be it a line drawn with anger or a smudge made out of grief. When we draw we embed our emotions and experiences into the canvas, this might not only be a knowledge of art history but a knowledge of things only you truly understand in your own way. Art is the field of self expression and your art is your own.

10. Public Conscience

This is the final and most crucial step to determining art from other forms of expression, basically if the public agrees its art then it is. For example the difference between graffiti and art is only made when the community agree that the thing on the wall is visually appealing instead of a nuisance. This is also what separates causal holiday snap shots from a professional photographers work and abstraction from spilt coffee on a canvas. We as a society put in place rules and regulations to keep the masses happy and in line to our moral compass, as such we also come to common belief's which apply to anything and everything, these beliefs guide us though life and give us an indiction of what to expect when walking down a street. Those tags on the wall are just common graffiti, but this one that stands out amongst the rest which shows evident passion, joy and meaning that is art, but only because we agree on it being so.

I hope these rules have cleared some things up or at least given you something to think about in regards to the arts.

If not leave a comment in ways in which I can improve upon this.
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