

Handout #1

What is Art?

Quotes About Art and the Creation of Art

“Physical beauty depends on the **harmony** created by symmetry and proportion, on the rational, even mathematical, view of the world.”

Plato, Greek, 428 – 348 BC

“A work of art should be evaluated based on *mimesis* (imitation), how faithfully the artists recorded what they saw in the **natural world**.”

Aristotle, Greek, 384 – 322 BC

“(the work of art) that merits both praise and admiration will be so agreeably and pleasantly attractive that it will **capture the eye** of whatever learned or unlearned person is looking at it and will **move his soul**.”

Leon Battista Alberti, Italian, 1404 – 1472 AD

“The true artist should engage in intellectual activity of a higher order and attempt to capture the inner life – **the energy and the power** – of a subject.”

Leonardo da Vinci, Italian, 1452 – 1519 AD

“Fine art is that in which the **hand**, the **head** and the **heart** of man go together.”

John Ruskin, English, 1819 - 1900

“So I said to myself – I’ll paint what I see – what the flower is to me but I’ll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it – I will make even busy New Yorkers take time to see **what I see** in flowers.”

Georgia O’Keeffe, American, 1887 – 1986

In this unit, you will explore your personal ideas and feelings about art. In the assignments you will answer these questions:

1. What **theme** appeals to you the most? Is it the Human Form, Natural World, or Spiritual World? **Why** does it appeal to you?
2. What **type** of visual art appeals to you the most? Is it drawing, painting, prints, sculpture, architecture, or decorative art? **Why** does it appeal to you?
3. What **tools** of the artist appeal to you the most? Is it colors, lines, shapes, details space, or composition? **Why** do they appeal to you?