

# Questions in Aesthetics

1. What makes something a work of art? What kinds of things would you say could never be an artwork? What characteristics must it have for you to consider it art? Why aren't natural objects (trees, rocks, leaves, etc.) works of art? Or are they?
2. Why do people make art? Why does art matter?
3. Are art and beauty essentially related? Does art have to be beautiful? What are the definitions of beautiful and ugly?
4. What makes a piece of artwork good? Why will people sometimes agree about what is good art or what is not good art?
5. Do standards for good art stay the same in all cultures or groups?
6. Why think about art? Why not just stand in front of it and look at it and experience it?
7. Why do we call some works of art masterpieces but not others?
8. What does it mean to evaluate or judge a piece of art? Are some people's judgments more important than others?
9. Does art mean the same thing in every culture? In every group? Can we understand the meanings of artworks made in cultures other than our own?
10. Who determines the meaning of an artwork, the artist or the viewer?
11. Where do people obtain their beliefs about art?