

What is Art?

course: Aesthetics

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This question leads the discussion of art into *philosophical* domain.

Art and Non-art

- Are they art forms?

What are the bases of defining?

- Critically evaluate inadequacy and insufficiency in *our* definitions

Aesthetics as strategic discussion

- There are numerous and various definitions of art.
- Academic and philosophical discussion on art should uncover their underlying constructs.
- Steven Davies' anatomy in defining art (*Definitions of Art*, the Routledge Companion to Aesthetics, 2001)

Early/essential definition

- Emphasizing a single property as the essence of art: representation/mimesis, emotion expression, aesthetic interest
- (-) simple functionalism

functionalism

- Art: to provide satisfying art experience
- (-)not all, some chalange our assumption about art's function

proceduralism

- Art: a process to attain its status as *art*.
- (-)is there really any institution to validate it; and, how about non-western and the outsider art?

Historicism

- Art revolves and links to its antecedence.
- (-) how is art special

Hybrid (danto)

- Historicisim + aboutness, meaning embodiment, ellipsis
- (-) Not all have a subject, eg: instrumental music

Hybrid (Stecker)

- Plurality of art functions: contemporary & historical
- (-) too tolerant