What is Art?

course: Aesthetics
Paulus Kurnianta
paulus_kurnianta@uny.ac.id

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 challenge 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