

One Dozen Questions About Contemporary Art

Contemporary art brings to light many issues which span the history of art. Use these questions as a take off point for discussions with your students! (Please note that some of these questions are more appropriate for upper level grades and some are appropriate for all levels.)

1. Does contemporary art reflect society, individuals, or particular groups in society? Or, all of these?
2. Can art that doesn't last really be considered art?
3. Does art have to be beautiful? Why or why not?
4. What does art communicate? Should art have a message?
5. Is popular culture art?
6. How has the role of the artist in the world changed over time?
7. What is the relationship between tradition and contemporary art?
8. What is the relationship between technology and contemporary art?
9. Should some contemporary art be censored?
10. Why do artists make art?
11. How is contemporary art different than other movements in art history?

Thinking about these issues may lead to the broadest question of all:

12. What makes it art?

