

Springboard

into
Comprehension

6

Main Idea Letters from the Goldfields
The History of Looking Cool

Compare and Contrast In the Public Eye

Two Mines, Two Rescues

Fact and Opinion Let There Be Rock!
Snake on the Loose

Cause and Effect Rainforests at Risk
The Gallipoli Campaign

Bias and Prejudice Women's Rights
Animal Issues

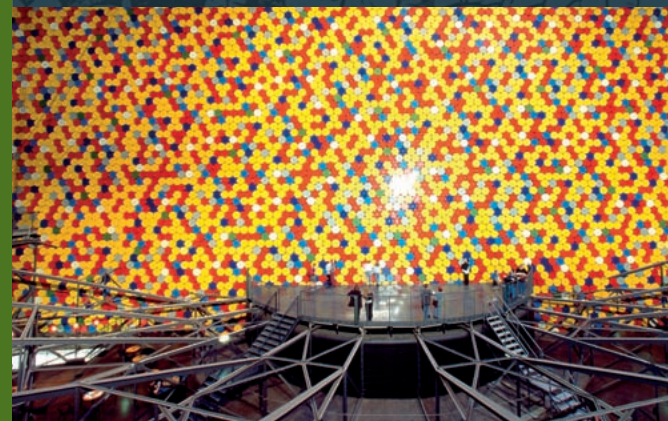
Figurative Language Your Health
Smythe's Department Store

RA 12.5+



Information Report

IN THE PUBLIC EYE



WRITTEN BY ANDREW EINSBRUCH

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

CONTENTS

Different Artists, Different Art	2
Who Are Christo and Jeanne-Claude?	6
A Closer Look at Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Art . . .	8
One of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Works	12
Who Is Banksy?	14
A Closer Look at Banksy's Art	16
One of Banksy's Exhibitions	20
Christo and Jeanne-Claude v Banksy	22
Glossary and Index	24

WRITTEN BY ANDREW EINSPRUCH

DIFFERENT ARTISTS, DIFFERENT ART

Art is all around you. The odds are good that you engage with some form of art every day. If you listen to music, watch dance, read books, enjoy movies, or look at sculptures or paintings, you are consuming art. If you are the one playing the music, dancing, writing the books, making the movies, or creating the sculptures or paintings, you are the artist.

So, what is art? That is actually a tricky question, because in the right hands or in the right context, almost anything can be considered art. Besides the normal forms of art mentioned above, artists have done all kinds of strange and unusual things and called them art, from putting honey and gold leaf on their faces to smearing fat over the pages of a magazine.



Drawing and painting are the forms most commonly associated with the word “art.”



These people covered in gold paint are called performance artists.

The different kinds of art have certain things in common, though. For one, art requires the deliberate arrangement of elements. These elements may be strokes of paint, notes of music, or the placement of feet. For another, the artist arranges these elements to evoke emotion, convey a point of view, or simply to appeal to the senses.

Artists have similar reasons for creating art. They want to express themselves. They want to communicate with the people looking at the work of art, their audience. They want to please or shock the senses. They want to get their creative ideas out in some form that makes sense to them.

We are the people experiencing the work of art. As the audience, we can have an emotional response to the artwork. We can also think about the ideas or points of view that we think the artist is trying to get across.



Modern art gets you looking and thinking about things from different perspectives.



Art allows you to experience an emotion in response to what the artist has created.

One of the biggest challenges artists face is to find a unique way to express themselves. They might have an original way to sing, paint, sculpt, or write. Great artists develop a style that is all their own. When we recognize an Andy Warhol painting or a Fall Out Boy song, we are recognizing that those artists have developed their own unique style.

Some artists become so famous that people tend to refer to them by just one name. These people have achieved **single-name status**. People with single-name status include Renoir, Picasso, and Elvis. Other artists, especially graffiti artists, use fake names. A fake name is called a **pseudonym**. Two pseudonyms are Dr Seuss and Lemony Snicket.

In this book, we explore the work of three artists. Two of them have achieved single-name status – the couple formed by Christo and Jeanne-Claude. The third artist works under a pseudonym, Banksy, to conceal his true identity. Under his pseudonym, Banksy is famous for the images he sprays and paints on outside walls – graffiti. Christo and Jeanne-Claude are famous for large-scale textile works, such as the wrapping of trees or entire buildings in fabric and the hanging of huge “curtains” across roads and canyons.



In 1998, Christo and Jeanne-Claude created a kind of art when they wrapped these trees in see-through fabric.

“We want to create works of art of joy and beauty, which we will build because we believe it will be beautiful.” – Christo and Jeanne-Claude, from their website

These artists have interesting parallels and differences. All three are modern artists who typically work outdoors. All three often locate their art in places people do not necessarily expect to see it – as opposed to in museums or art galleries. All three have done very complex artworks requiring a lot of planning. All three make money selling drawings and other works to collectors.

However, even the slightest glance shows significant differences. Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s artwork is temporary by design, and is often very large in scale. This means they produce a limited number of works. Banksy’s artworks, on the other hand, can appear overnight, and he is much more prolific. Banksy’s work also incorporates a good deal of social and political commentary. Although Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s art may also include social and political commentary, they insist that their works are mainly about creating something that brings joy and appeals to people’s sense of what is beautiful, their **aesthetic**. Banksy’s graffiti and other art, in contrast, is often called “aesthetic with a message.”

In 2008, Banksy organized an exhibition in a disused tunnel in London, in the United Kingdom, where 30 artists from around the world created works such as this one.



“...graffiti is about the most honest way you can be an artist. It takes no money to do it, you don’t need an education to understand it, and there’s no admission fee.” – Banksy

WHO ARE CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE?

Jeanne-Claude, Christo, and one of their artworks



Artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude have always been very open about their lives.

Christo Javacheff and Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon were born on the same day, June 13, 1935.

Christo was born in Gabrovo, Bulgaria. Jeanne-Claude was born 3,000 km away in Casablanca, Morocco. Christo's family were businesspeople, whereas Jeanne-Claude came from a poor French military family. Christo is still alive, but Jeanne-Claude died in late 2009.

Christo studied art for three years at the Fine Arts Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria.

He began his studies in 1953. In 1957,

Christo spent a semester at the Vienna Fine Arts Academy. By 1958, he had made it to Paris. There, he began showing some of his artworks, selling pieces for amounts ranging from \$40 to \$100. It was not enough to pay the bills, so he cleaned cars and washed dishes, too. He also painted portraits, which he did not like doing, but which earned him between \$200 and \$300 each.

One of Christo's customers was Precilda de Guillebon, Jeanne-Claude's mother. She asked Christo to paint a portrait in October 1958. The pair wrote on their website, "By the time Christo had done an impressionist portrait, a classical portrait, and a cubist portrait of the mother, Christo and Jeanne-Claude were in love."

In 1961, Christo had his first solo exhibition at the Haro Lauhus Gallery in Cologne, in what was then West Germany. By that time, the couple were already working together on art projects. They made their first temporary outdoor artwork, called *Dockside Packages*, at Cologne Harbour. This artwork was made of oil barrels and large rolls of industrial paper. They borrowed the oil barrels and rolls of paper from the Port Authority. They stacked them up and covered them in tarpaulins. Then, they secured them using ropes. Like many of their later works, *Dockside Packages* stood on site for only a short period of time – just two weeks.



Each one of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's artworks involves careful planning and collaboration.