

Controversial Art- Critical Analysis AP Studio/VA Focus

Some of the most cutting edge, revolutionary artists also created some of the most heated controversies. Throughout history artists have created controversial and heavily debated images. These works create debate because they often contradict the status quo of the art world as well as accepted religious, racial or political views and beliefs of society at the time.

Many controversial artists initiated change and new art movements were created because of their revolutionary art. For example: The Fauves (translated to 'Wild Beasts') in Europe got their name from critics who considered their bright, wild, unrealistic use of color, naïve and unworthy of the title fine art.

Research and find an artist who produced controversial visual art that: challenged the status quo of what art is and should be. (from 1800's to contemporary work)

Write a Critical Analysis of the work:

1. Copy and paste the image into a word document. Include the name of the artist, title, medium, size, and date of the work.
2. Describe the work: materials, subject matter, art elements (color, texture, line, form, space)
3. Analyze the composition: Focal point, sense of balance, movement, etc.
4. Interpret the meaning: What is the work expressing?
5. Describe why it is considered controversial:
 - What is the perspective of the artist?
 - What is the perspective of the group who finds it controversial?
 - Why do they think it is questionable?
 - What is your personal perspective? (should the work be censored? Why or why not? And in what context? Ex: should it be funded with public tax payer money? What is the balance of freedom of expression and needs/desires of the public?)

