This introductory chapter to art covers the following key topics:

• The Impulse for Art
• What Do Artists Do?
• Creating and Creativity
Studio Space, Brancusi

Bird In Space, Brancusi
What does Brancusi mean?

• “They are imbeciles who call my work abstract. That which they call abstract is the most realistic, because what is real is not the exterior but the idea, the essence of things.”

— Constantin Brancusi
Key terms for this chapter include:

- aesthetics
- megaliths
- Neolithic
- selective perception
- vanitas
Aesthetics:

Branch of philosophy that deals with feelings aroused by the sensory experiences of sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Our responses to the natural world and questions such as “What is art?” are issues of aesthetics.
The Impulse for Art

• What we know of human history indicates that no society has lived without some form of art.

• The ability to make images is uniquely human and it is the starting point for creating art.
LION PANEL, CHAUVEST CAVE
The Impulse for Art

To construct meaningful images and forms, to create order and structure, to explore aesthetic possibilities are characteristics that seem to be part of our nature as human beings.

- **Neolithic**: New Stone Age
- **Megaliths**: Large stones
What Do Artists Do?

Artists fulfill many roles within society:

• To create places for some human purpose
• To create extra-ordinary versions of ordinary objects
• To record and commemorate
• To give tangible form to the unknown
• To give tangible form to feelings and ideas
• To refresh our vision and see the world in a new way
**Stonehenge**, 3000-2000BC

Purpose – community rituals
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Maya Lin
Purpose - contemplation and remembrance

Kente cloth, Ghana
Purpose – create extraordinary version of ordinary objects
Jahangir Receives a Cup from Khusrau, Manohar 1605-06
Purpose – Record and commemorate

Shiva Nataraja, India
Purpose – Give tangible form to unknown
Starry Night, Vincent Van Gogh

Purpose – Give tangible form to feelings

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dipFMJckZOM

We take death to reach a star.
"This morning I saw the country from my window a long time before sunrise, with nothing but the morning star, which looked very big," van Gogh wrote to his brother Theo, from France. Rooted in imagination and memory, *The Starry Night* embodies an inner, subjective expression of van Gogh’s response to nature. In thick, sweeping brushstrokes, a flame-like cypress unites the churning sky and the quiet village below. The village was partly invented, and the church spire evokes van Gogh's native land, the Netherlands.
Peeling Paint on Iron Bench, Ernst Haas, Kyoto, 1981

Purpose – Refresh our visions and help see world in different ways
Creating & Creativity

Artists are devoted to visual creativity. Creative people, in general, tend to possess certain traits:

1. **Sensitivity**: heightened awareness
2. **Flexibility**: adapt to new possibilities
3. **Originality**: creatively problem-solve
4. **Playfulness**: humor & experimentation
5. **Productivity**: ability to generate ideas
6. **Fluency**: free flow of ideas
7. **Analytical skill**: exploring problems
8. **Organizational skill**: coherently ordering things
Kandor is the place where Superman was born. Before Krypton was destroyed, Kandor was miniaturized and kept under a glass bell jar in the Fortress of Solitude. Created for turn of millenium.
Looking and Responding

The key to looking at art is to become aware of the process of looking.

- **Selective Perception**: Filtering information to allow us to focus on the immediate tasks at hand.

- **Vanitas**: (Latin for “vanity”) Refers to the fleeting nature of earthly life and happiness.
EVERY TOUCH, Jim Hodges
Vanitas is a type of **symbolic** work of art associated with **still life painting** in Flanders and the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Latin word means "vainy" and loosely translated corresponds to the meaninglessness of earthly life and the transient nature of all earthly goods and pursuits.

Vanitas
By Juan de Valdés Leal

Wheel of Fortune (Vanitas)
By Audrey Flack
Your project:
- No smaller than 11x14
- Collage, photograph, &/or drawing
- No white paper showing
- Relates to you
- Relates to our time

Your presentation:
- Voice projection
- Explanation
- Eye contact
Living with Art: Summary

Works of art can have many meanings. The greatest works of art can transcend time to speak to each new generation.

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