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# THE ARTS

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## ARTICULATING OPINIONS



People have always made art. Drawings have been found on cave walls, made by people 40,000 years ago. The Greeks painted pottery and sculpted statues, as did the Romans. Making art seems a fundamental part of being human. It's one of the things that makes us different from animals.

This half-term, the Burnet News Club discussed the arts: their history, value, impact on society, role during times of crisis and future. In this edition of Hub Highlights we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS  
[bit.ly/EP-Arts](https://bit.ly/EP-Arts)

**cheerful\_photograph**

## Art's power to speak up for people

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 The Sherwood School

ART CAN get a word out there. I have done my part by having a window display for key workers in the NHS and other industries. I also made a Lockdown Diary for other people to read. Those protesting for the Black Lives Matter movement are using different types of art such as graffiti, banners and placards. Art can say a thousand words so using it to speak up is a great way of communicating when protesting peacefully.

Some people will use art to define their happiness while others can represent other emotions such as depression and anxiety. This can be particularly important for those who cannot talk, hear or see.

However, there are still disadvantages of using art to speak up. Misunderstanding is a key issue when interacting with others because everyone thinks differently. They can interpret different things in different ways. For example, if some art is seen as offensive or harmful, the artist could be punished. ■



**intrepid\_hurricane**

## Street art: Good or bad?

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 Lyons Hall Primary School

ALL ART has a meaning, from an actor on stage telling a story to art in a gallery showing how the world has changed over time. Street art has a meaning too: whether it's graffiti or a detailed picture. Most street art is social commentary: the wall is the canvas and the artist is sharing their thoughts on the world. However, I think some graffiti is made by people drawing on property just for fun. Most street art is better than this. ■

## Comments

**faithful\_bird**

Whyteleafe School

Cave people originally drew on cave walls, but now that we have canvases to paint on, should we still draw on walls? Sometimes it is wrong, such as writing on a monument. In the future, people may not see things as we see them because of graffiti.

However, sometimes graffiti can be good and be used to express an artist's feelings if they are thinking about the bigger picture. I read another member of the club say that graffiti helps to show people's emotions from the past (for example the writing on the Berlin Wall) and I agree with this.

**lovely\_painting**

Portobello High School

I think street art is just as valid as any other way of expressing yourself, as long as it is being done legally. Graffiti often delivers a powerful message, especially to do with politics. This makes it important to be exposed to graffiti in modern society. To criminalise all graffiti would be like banning freedom of speech.

## THE EXPERT VIEW

### Best of the questions



**lovable\_writer**  
**Graveney School**  
 to Stephen Fry, actor and author

How do you think the arts can change the way that people look at the world?



**intrepid\_hurricane**  
**Lyons Hall Primary School**  
 to Tamara Rojo, Artistic Director,  
 English National Ballet

How has the pandemic changed the way you work and train your dancers?



**accurate\_octopus**  
**Whyteleafe School**  
 to Fiona Mountford, theatre critic

Did you want to go into the arts when you were younger?

**astounding\_currant**

## Art is something in all of us, we sometimes just don't know it

SECONDARY SCHOOL  
 Cowes Enterprise College

Art is something in all of us,  
 We sometimes just don't know it,  
 We all have inner beauty  
 But are too afraid to show it...  
 When the world is put in turmoil  
 I see it as a wake up call,  
 Across the globe street art has grown,  
 A message has spread, that you are never  
 alone,  
 Expressions of love have taken to the  
 streets,  
 People are bravely refusing to be weak,  
 Everyone needs help sometimes,  
 Everyone needs love in their life,  
 Everyone needs to express their art,  
 in a way  
 that no one person  
 will ever forget. ■



## Is it impossible to define "art"?

### Comments

**credible\_argument**  
 Firth Park Academy

In my opinion, it's not impossible to define art because when I think of art, I think of someone letting their imagination run free. Even if someone thinks they are not good at art, it's a way they can express themselves. However, some people might think defining art is impossible because art is all around us and there are so many different types of art with such a range of meanings, so this makes it hard to understand.

**honorable\_meerkat**  
 Michael Faraday School

I think it is possible to define art as you can describe lots of objects as art. These can be everyday items or things on display in museums. Art could also be a fun activity created with your imagination like a dance routine. I consider art as everything creative and imaginative.

**Stephen Fry**  
 Expert

"Something made that is not useful?" That sounds strange, indeed contradictory because I think art is immensely important. I'm really echoing Oscar Wilde. What he meant, I believe, is that art is above and beyond what we need. We need shelter, yet there is architecture. We need something to cover our bodies, yet there is high fashion. We create a whole new sphere of made objects or experiences that transcend, that go beyond their function and enter that realm we call art.



**valuable\_insect**

## How can art change people's emotions?

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Hammond Junior School

**A**RT CAN change the way people feel depending on its colours, scenes and expressions of the people in it.

Happy, confused, and amazed are a few of the emotions art can make us feel. All art can stir our emotions in its own special way. There is no limit to the amount of feelings art can create within us. While some pieces may only make us feel one or two emotions, others might make us feel nine or ten!

How does different art make you feel? Does art only make you feel slightly different? ■

## Comments

**memorable\_orchard**

Michael Faraday School

Art can give everyone a myriad of emotions. For example, "The Last Supper" by Leonardo de Vinci portrays quite a sad scene, as it is Jesus' last meal before he is killed. The scene may be sad but that does not particularly make it sad for the beholder. It could be mesmerising for them as it tells of the events that occurred in the past. The statue of Edward Colston, who was a slave trader, is a piece of art, and we still experience racism today. Seeing the statue does create quite a sorrowful feeling, as slavery was a horrendous thing, and these emotions are made worse as we're living with racism.

**spirited\_insect**

Braiswick Primary School

If you don't see what you like in the art you're viewing, then you might not feel anything. However, if you do try to see what you like about the art, you can find something to appreciate, and then you'll feel something. How does art do this? Art can tell stories. If there was a story about someone losing their life, you would cry and feel the emotion of sadness. It's the same with art. If it shows a sad story, you would most likely feel sad.

**generous\_seagull**

Lyons Hall Primary School

I normally feel calm and happy when I do art. However, I have a question about people who do *not* like art - do they attach emotions to an artwork in the same way those who like art do?

## COMPETITION: What would feature in your online arts festival?

**amusing\_bee**  
Highdown School

My virtual arts festival would have a futuristic theme to reflect its online platform. Each page of the website would take the visitor back to a different decade. On each decade page, there would be a live chat (with the option to dress up), video clips of the greatest songs and moments and games from that time. Everyone participating could find a page that interests them and could feel like they're actually at a festival!

**fulfilled\_starfruit**  
New Horizons Children's Academy

My virtual arts festival would be educational, fun and fair. Families would be given a story and have 30 minutes to create a short dance showcasing it. For those who don't wish to take part in this, there would be a range of other activities to choose from, such as recreating music in a freeze-frame, making models and drawings and representing emotions through sounds. Alternatively, people could enjoy watching the performances of others!