

3. **Connect:** Finally, give your definition of art (what you think art is and how you view it). How have your past learning experiences shaped your definition of art and your attitudes toward art?

My history with art is not the most exciting one, unfortunately due to family circumstances. As a child, I never went to libraries, or museums, or

special displays because they always cost money. Growing up in a lower to middle income family home, the arts were not always pushed. While I was active in afterschool activities like Karate, and others, It could not prepare me for the lack of art I had in my youth, and the impact it would have on my adulthood.

My first experience that I can remember of participating in art was in kindergarten, where we drew pictures and shared them with the class. This was the largest exposure to art that I had been subjected to thus far in life. In middle school, I visited the Norton Simon Museum, located in Pasadena, CA. I remember the sheer power that was held in the paintings of Van Gogh and others. This was the first time I felt truly awe inspired by art in any form. My love of museums and art walks only grew from there. Most notably, one of the most precious collections in the world of art and design was the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, CA. Contained in these walls of this massive mansion were paintings, sculptures, tapestries, and of course architecture that was mindboggling to some upon their first glimpse. Currently, I love to see all of the community submissions at our county fair, one that may not come with a trophy but comes with the pride that you are able to display your art amongst hundreds of others from the county. Admiring these works helps build a framework for the expansion of the understanding of art.

The top two of these experiences that are the most meaningful to my art experience were the trips to the Norton Simon and the Hearst Castle. These two trips offered me the chance to view art from around the world that

has been perfectly preserved in time and are beautifully displayed. The difference between the two locations are stark, with one being a traditional museum and one being a large estate with a private collection of the most beautiful art and tapestries that were available at the time of their purchases. The drastic difference in the two locations shows that art does not fall into stagnant chapters and fractals in displays and stature. In looking at my ability to produce art, I also look at the differences in the types of media and the levels of design. My lack of artistic skills can be put on display in many different ways, just as a museum may stage different displays together and near each other in like clusters. While I can display my work, I really am not looking forward to. There are a few pieces of art I have created over the years that I took time on, and truly showed my artistic ability, but these are few and far between.

While my art may be defined in one way, true art can be a myriad of different types. These can be as simple as watercolor or oil paint, to large sculptures made from machinery parts and rocket siding. Art can best be described as a visual or auditory experience made with any of many mediums to express a thought or an idea, or even a symbol. These pieces of art can take up small sections of cities, or entire human populations as long as they represent the life and the meaning of something, they will be cherished in one way or another. I feel as if my experiences in art are limited, but have given me a chance to look at a piece of art and see what the artist saw, feel what the artist felt, or empathize with the subjects of

pieces. I feel that any expression by any person can be viewed as art, specifically if they work to display this to their peers and fellow citizens of life.