**What Is Art??**

By [Cheryl Trowbridge](http://www.teachkidsart.net/author/Cheryl/) on October 15, 2008 in [Abstract (Non-representational)](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/lessons/lessons-by-style/abstract-non-representational/), [Abstract (Representational)](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/lessons/lessons-by-style/abstract-representational/), [Art Web Sites](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/more/art-web-sites/), [Digital / Computer](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/medium/digital-computer/), [Philosophy](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/more/philosophy-more/), [Picasso, Pablo](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/famous-artists/picasso-pablo/), [Pollock, Jackson](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/famous-artists/pollock-jackson/), [Quotes & Stories](http://www.teachkidsart.net/category/more/quotes-more/)


***So what is Art, anyway??*** Not to get all philosophical or anything, but you have to admit that’s a good question! If you ask 100 people, you’re likely to get 100 different answers. I recently attended an exhibit at the Denver Art Museum titled, *“What is Art?”*. This question was posed to exhibit viewers who responded on sticky notes that covered an entire wall. Reading these responses was both enlightening and entertaining and a great introduction to the Modern Art section of the museum.

Many great thinkers throughout history have also attempted to answer this thought provoking question. Here are a few of my personal favorites:

*“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”*
*~ Scott Adams*

*“Art is everything that humans do that goes beyond practical motives.”*  *~ Diane Scott*

***“We all know that art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth.”***
***~ Pablo Picasso***

“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”  *~ Aristotle*

“Art is anything you can get away with.”
~ Marshall McLuhan

Engage your students in this discussion and prepare yourself for a lively debate! This is especially effective when beginning a study of Abstract Art, such as the paintings of American artist [Jackson Pollock](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/pollock_jackson.html).

Now, on a lighter note, try your hand at creating your own Abstract Art! Check out this *enormously fun* website (voted one of TIME magazines “50 Coolest Websites” in 2003) created by Greek artist, [Miltos Manetas](http://www.manetas.com/). Try it out at <http://www.jacksonpollock.org/>but beware…. this website is addicting!! (See my own design at the top of this post, and ask yourself, *“Is it Art??”*)