CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION: LIVING WITH ART
Is art part of your life?
Dorothy and Herbert Vogel in their apartment
Class Assignment 1

Make a list of all the purposes of art – Do not look at the textbook (or any other source) for answers! Write as many purposes as possible. Bullet points are ok but your ideas need to be clear.
What purposes does art serve? 
(the functions of art)

- Creates places for human purpose
- Creates extra-ordinary versions of ordinary objects
- Records and commemorates
- Gives tangible form to the unknown
- Gives tangible form to feelings and ideas
- Refreshes our vision and helps us see the world in a new way
- Promotes social, political, religious ideas (e.g. – propaganda, protest)
- Assists in various rituals
- Entertains; creates alternative reality
Art creates places for some human purpose.
Maya Lin with a model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1980

**Maya Ying Lin** (b. 1959).

American sculptor and architect. She was still an undergraduate at Yale University when she won the competition for a Vietnam War veterans memorial to be built near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Amid controversy over her untraditional design (and, remarkably, complaints that it had been created by a young woman of Chinese descent).

It became the most visited monument in Washington, D.C. and she has gone on to design other memorials, landscape sculptures and private residences.
Color Sketch of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Art creates extra ordinary versions of ordinary objects
Kente cloth from Ghana. Asante. 20\textsuperscript{th} c. 71\times 41", rayon. (This size cloth is worn by a woman; a full man's kente is usually about 7 \times 11 feet.)
Kente cloth from Ghana. Asante. 20\textsuperscript{th} c. 71\times41"", rayon
A variety of kente patterns have been invented, each of which has a certain concept or concepts traditionally associated with it. 

A man weaves kente cloth using a traditional loom, Bonwire village, Ashanti region, Ghana.
Tea bowl
Art Cars

Pakistani Trucks
Art records and commemorates
Labille-Guiard was elected to one of the four places in the French Academy available for women in 1783.

In 1790 she successfully petitioned to end the restriction on women.

Adelaide Labille-Guiard: 
*Self Portrait with Two Pupils*. 1785. Oil on Canvas 6’X4’. Metropolitan Museum of Art. NY
Art gives tangible form to the unknown
Nataraja (Shiva as Lord of the Dance), India,
10th century C.E. Bronze, 5 1/4" high. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.
Art gives tangible form to feelings and ideas
Van Gogh, Vincent (1853–90)

A nineteenth-century Dutch painter who worked mainly in France. His brief, turbulent, and tragic life is thought to epitomize the mad genius legend.

Only one of his paintings was sold while he lived. The great majority of the works by which he is remembered were produced in 29 months of frenzied activity and intermittent bouts with epileptoid seizures and profound despair that finally ended in suicide.

In his grim struggle he had one constant ally and support, his younger brother, to whom he wrote revealing letters detailing his conflicts and aspirations.

Since his death, his paintings have been sold for many millions of dollars.
“Just as we take a train to Tarascon or Rouen, we take death to reach a star” Vincent van Gogh
Art refreshes our vision and helps us see the world in new ways
Art promotes social, political and religious ideas (e.g. – propaganda, protest)
Victory Stele of Naram-Sin,
From Susa, Iran (probably came originally from Sippar, an Akkadian city and brought by the Elamites to Susa),
2254–2218 BCE
Pink sandstone, approx. 6’ 7” high.
Louvre, Paris.
**Comparison:** Ishtar (Queen of heaven/morning and evening star) and Shamash (sun god). Akkadian cylinder seal

**Victory Stele of Naram-Sin.** Detail
Victory Stele of Naram-Sin. Detail
Victory Stele of Naram-Sin. Detail
Triumph of the Will is a propaganda film made by Leni Riefenstahl. It chronicles the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg.

Triumph of the Will is "a totally unique and incomparable glorification of the power and beauty of our Movement." -- Adolf Hitler
Art assists in various rituals
Creating a Kalachakra mandala of some 2 meters diameter, traditionally takes 6 days, employing as many as 16 monks.

**Mandala** – A Hindu or Buddhist graphic symbol of the universe, that is used chiefly as an aid to meditation.

**The Kalachakra Sand Mandala**
Monk working on Sand Mandala at Nashua High School.
construction and destruction of a mandala
https://youtu.be/10084L3Pqsc
Art entertains
Larry Harvey likens the art cars to "sublimely beautiful works of art floating across the playa like a Miro painting."
Nights on the Playa
Pac Man
1981 (Atari)

Super Mario Brothers III, 1990
(Nintendu)
by Shigeru Miyamoto and
Takashi Tezuka.

The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time 3D, 2011

Video Games
Creative people tend to possess certain traits:

1. **Sensitivity** - heightened awareness
2. **Flexibility** - adapt to new possibilities
3. **Originality** - problem solving creatively
4. **Playfulness** - humor & experimentation
5. **Productivity** - ability to generate ideas
6. **Fluency** - free flow of ideas
7. **Analytical skill** - exploring problems, & finding how they work
8. **Organizational skill** - putting things together in a coherent order.
Looking and Responding

The physical process has 3 steps:

1. **Reception** – external stimuli enter the nervous system through the eyes.
2. **Extraction** – the retina (nerve cells at the back of the eye) extracts the information it needs and send it to the visual cortex. There are approximately 100 million sensors in the retina but only 5 million channels to the visual cortex so the retina does a lot of “editing”.
3. **Inference** – The visual cortex (the part of the brain that processes visual stimuli) receive the information of such features as color, motion, orientation and size, and “creates” what is finally seen.

The Psychological Process:
Everything we see is filtered through a history of fear, prejudices, desires, emotions, customs and beliefs. Through art we can understand those filters and learn to look more closely at the visual world.
Art and Beauty

Aesthetics:
A branch of philosophy concerned with the feelings aroused in us by sensory experiences such as seeing and hearing. Aesthetics examines, among other things, the nature of art and the nature of beauty.

Beauty:
The quality that gives pleasure to the mind or senses and is associated with such properties as harmony of form or color, excellence of artistry, truthfulness, and originality.
Gelatin silver print. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tuscon.
Francisco de Goya. Chronos Devouring One of His Children, c. 1820-1822. Wall painting in oil on plaster (later transferred to canvas), 57 7/8" x 32 5/8". Museo del Prado, Madrid.
Komar and Melamid's People's Choice series, 1994-1997, consisted of the "most wanted" and "most unwanted" paintings of 11 countries. The artists commissioned polling companies to conduct scientific polls to discover what people want to see in art.
Komar & Melamid
FRANCE: MOST WANTED PAINTING (television size)

Komar & Melamid
FRANCE: LEAST WANTED PAINTING (wall size)
• Find in your textbook a work of art that you find beautiful and explain what makes it beautiful for you.

• Find in your textbook a work of art that you don’t find appealing and explain what makes it not beautiful in your opinion.

• If your group can not agree you may submit more than one example and explain your choices.

• Do you think art should be beautiful? Why or why not?