

Is a work of art necessarily beautiful ? Illustrate your view with examples.

CORRECTION

I went to the museum last week end to see an exhibition of abstract paintings by Kandinsky. Lots of pictures were beautiful to me but many didn't make any sense and I really thought they were ugly. I even wondered why they were called "art". I asked myself if a work of art had to be beautiful to bear such a title.

According to me, the vision of what art is depends on the viewer and on the period in time. Until the 19th century, art was considered as a source of pleasure for the eyes, a representation of reality at its best. It was indeed related to order, balance, rhythm, harmony, and proportions. Have a look at the ephebe statues of ancient Greece : they represent perfect human bodies and I find them absolutely gorgeous.

However, there are other visions in art. For example, when the impressionists formed their movement with Monet's revolutionary "Impression, Rising Sun", art was not about the representation of a perfect reality anymore but about conveying emotions. For a painting to be beautiful, the contours didn't have to be perfect anymore. It had to suggest feelings to the observer.

As a conclusion, I would say that if I didn't like the Kandinsky paintings at the art gallery last week end, it was because I couldn't understand them. They didn't convey any emotions to me. I believe that art is what conveys emotions and has to be recognised by society as art over the years. Works of art have to be so striking in their periods that they will remain famous forever.

(266 words)

A week later, Gillon comes to Sarah's place for the dinner, wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Write the conversation.

CORRECTION

As she arrived on the doorstep, Gillon felt some apprehension. She would never admit it but her grand-mother was right. She did carry a torch for Henry. Before she could even knock, the door opened abruptly.

"Good evening, darling –", Sarah said elated and then paused staring at her. "Where on earth did you think you were having dinner tonight, Gillon?", she said with an offended gaze.

"What do you mean, grand-mama?", Gillon replied, puzzled at her grand-mother's welcome.

"I told you we were having dinner with a guest and this is the way you dress! You could have worn a skirt and blouse instead of wearing these horrible jeans and t-shirt! We're not having a picnic here! Come, I'll find you something to wear before Henry arrives. You don't want to look like a boy in front of him, do you?"

Gillon was so astounded that she didn't know what to retort at first. She had never seen her grand-mother so narrow-minded before. But she finally blurted out in fury: "There is no way you can tell me what to wear and how to behave grand-mama! I'm sick of your always bugging me about my looks. I don't live in a world of appearances like you! If Henry sees me this way, what's the big –". Sarah slapped her across the face. "How dare you speak to me like this?"

Henry had witnessed the whole scene as he had arrived just after Gillon but none of the women had noticed his arrival...

(253 words)