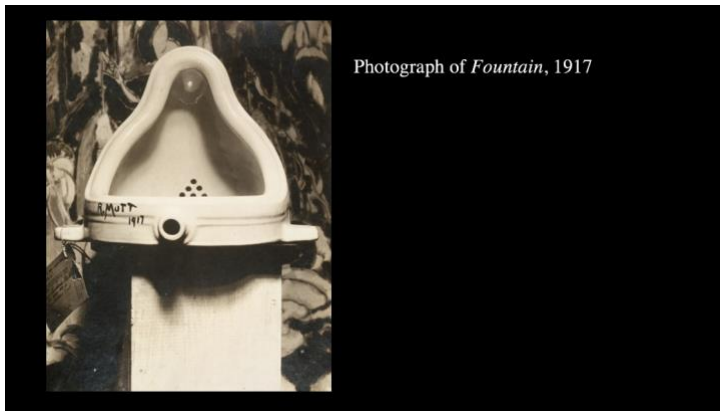


RESPONSE QUESTION 1/3 (slide 7): Is *Fountain* art? There is no right answer here; make sure to say what you think and explain why, supporting that thesis. A paragraph is sufficient.



Your responses were torn about 50/50 on whether or not *Fountain* is art. Many of you said it's not because Duchamp didn't physically make the urinal or because it lacked creativity. Some said that it didn't have a message or wasn't beautiful so it couldn't be art. Others argued that art doesn't need to be beautiful, and that Duchamp had an idea and made something out of that idea, and so it was art. There was an intention behind the making, so yes, it is art. All of you made good arguments. This is a completely subjective question, so you are all correct. I do want to clarify a few things that there seemed to be some confusion about. *Fountain* is not a photograph. Duchamp's work wasn't the picture of the urinal, but the urinal itself. Secondly, Duchamp didn't make the urinal, he purchased it at a store. So, he picked it out, but the urinal was manufactured and then sold.

RESPONSE QUESTION 2/3 (slide 13): Describe how interaction with this object would feel like? Would you want to drink from this cup? How would that feel? What is your reaction?



Almost all you said you would not want to use this teacup because it would be uncomfortable when the fur got wet and because it seemed dirty, like there could be germs in the fur. Some went further, saying that they felt disgusted when thinking about using the cup. I think this was the artist's intention. The Surrealist object is supposed to make us uncomfortable because it can't (or shouldn't) be used in its intended way. We can recognize this as a cup, but the majority of us really don't want to.

Student Questions: A lot of you asked about what art is and what art can be. I don't have yes or no answers for you, but have given you some thoughts. The answers to questions like these differ person to person, and there really is no set definition for what art is. Just thinking about what art is or isn't is important, and that's what Duchamp wanted when he submitted *Fountain* to his exhibition.

Do people of the 20th Century look for surreal things for art for comedic effect or actual reimagination of daily objects?

I think both. Dada is definitely more comedic than Surrealism, but both ask us to rethink daily objects and how we experience the world. It's more about changing perspective and understanding ourselves and our actions in the world, and this can be done in more or less serious ways.

In Frida Kahlo's *The Two Fridas*, how do you interpret what Frida has cut off from her?

Good question. It's hard to say for sure, but given the personal nature of her work in general, Diego Rivera's portrait in the locket, and the fact that she painted this right after their divorce, I believe Frida has cut herself off from Diego, her ex-husband.

Wouldn't the *Object* also be considered a readymade? And how come people were okay with calling this art but not the urinal, does simplicity play a role in this?

Object uses readymades (cup, saucer, spoon), but isn't a readymade because the artist has really changed the objects by covering them in fur. For example, the urinal in *Fountain* is a readymade and *Fountain* is just the urinal, so it's easier to say that's a readymade. Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel* is also made of readymades, but they have been combined with enough artist intervention that the entire sculpture wouldn't really be called a readymade. In many ways this is an issue of semantics, so calling *Object* a readymade wouldn't be totally incorrect.

I think that a lot of people think *Fountain* is too simple and didn't require "work" from Duchamp, so it can't be art. You can see the work that Oppenheim did to transform the cup, spoon, and saucer, and it evokes such an intense emotional and physical response, so it's easier to accept this as art. Furthermore, the cup, saucer, and spoon don't really work as cup/spoon/saucer anymore so it can't not be art. The urinal in *Fountain* is functional though- it could be hooked up by a plumber and used as a toilet- which makes it harder to accept as an art object.

Can something created by an artist that is not beautiful or expresses important ideas and feelings be considered art?

I think so. Deciding what is or isn't art is very difficult and very personal and subjective. Beauty though is also subjective, so it's hard to use that as a marker of artistic value. For example, we've talked a lot about how what idealism means changes between cultures and over time, so if we determine what art is based on beauty, everyone will have a different definition.

Would Dada be considered parody? Could Dada be surreal since it challenges people's thoughts after WW1?

Dada can absolutely be considered parody. Dada can be surreal, but it's not part of the Surrealist movement. Dada can have surrealist qualities.

I am very confused about what can be accepted as art. If we say that the Fountain is art, can we not argue that everything is art? Would that decrease our appreciation for art or would that make things better because we are now seeing art in everything?

Again, the answer is subjective. There is no single definition for what art is, nor is there one set of criteria that we can follow to determine if something is a work of art or not. I would point out that it can be very debated whether or not *Fountain* is art and it does evoke emotion, even if that emotion is humor or disbelief. In that way, Duchamp did succeed in his intended goal of making us think about art.

Does art have to be man made?

An excellent question. This depends on how you define art. Let's think again about *Fountain*. Duchamp didn't actually make the urinal, but he repurposed it and brought it into an art context. So, no, not necessarily, art does not have to be manmade. But, I do think it requires intervention or contextualization. But, anyone could disagree with me on this and still be right.

Can art be from other life forms such as from animals (or trained or forced animals) or AI etc (both intentionally and unintentionally)?

Again, this is subjective. Personally, I think so.

Are there any exceptions or limitations in art?

Yes, technology could limit art, for example. Depending on how you want to define art, the answer to this changes.