

art¹ S1 W1

/ɑ:t \$ ɑ:rt/

noun

- 1 [uncountable] ART/CULTURE the use of painting, drawing, SCULPTURE etc to represent things or express ideas:
the Museum of Modern Art in New York
an example of early Indian art
- 2 [plural, uncountable] ART/CULTURE objects that are produced by art, such as paintings, drawings etc:
an art exhibition
an art critic
an arts and crafts fair
*The exhibition features **works of art** by Picasso and Matisse.*
- 3 [uncountable] ART/CULTURE the skill of drawing or painting:
He's very good at art.
an art teacher
art college
- 4 **the arts** [plural] ART/CULTURE
art, music, theatre, film, literature etc all considered together:
Government funding for the arts has been reduced.
- 5 **arts** (*also the arts*) [plural]
subjects you can study that are not scientific, for example history, languages etc
→ **humanities**
- 6 [uncountable and countable] GOOD AT the ability or skill involved in doing or making something:
Television is ruining the art of conversation.
*Writing advertisements **is quite an art** (= it is difficult to do) .*

have/get something down to a fine art (= do something very well)

I've got the early morning routine down to a fine art.

THESAURUS

types of art

modern art art from the late 19th century until now: *I'm not very keen on modern art.*

contemporary art art that is being created now: *an exhibition of contemporary art*

Western art art in Europe and North America: *Velasquez was one of the greatest figures in the history of Western art.*

fine art art, especially painting, which is made to be beautiful or affect your emotions, rather than to be useful: *She wants to study fine art at college. | the Royal Academy of Fine Arts*

abstract art paintings or images that consist of shapes or lines which do not look like people, places, or objects: *it's almost impossible for any artist not to be influenced by Picasso's abstract art.*

figurative art art that shows pictures of people, places, or objects: *In this country, we always feel more comfortable with figurative art.*

conceptual art a type of modern art, which shows ideas about the world: *In conceptual art, the idea behind the work of art holds as much importance as the artwork itself.*

applied art the use of artistic principles in the design of objects and images for people to use. This includes subjects such as fashion, jewellery design, architecture, and photography: *Van de Velde taught at the new school of applied art.*

primitive art art by people who live in societies where there is a very simple way of life and no modern technology or industry: *The interest in primitive art came about largely through the work*

of Gauguin.

pop art art that shows ordinary objects that you find in people's homes, which was made popular in the 1960s by artists such as Andy Warhol: *The relationship of advertising to art was part of the pop art phenomenon in the 1960s.*

the visual arts painting, sculpture, and other art forms that you look at, not literature or music: *The approach to the visual arts has changed in the last two decades.*

the decorative arts the design and production of beautiful things for the home, such as furniture, pottery, and cloth: *The exhibition will also cover the decorative arts.*

the performing arts dance, music, or drama, done to entertain people: *San Diego's School for the Creative and Performing Arts*

the plastic arts art that involves producing objects such as sculptures or pots: *the decline of the plastic arts in the fifth century*

performance art a type of art that can combine acting, dance, and other actions to express an idea: *It will be a mixture of live performance art, music and poetry in an informal club setting.*

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old French

Origin: Latin *ars*

art²

verb

(old-fashioned) or (biblical)

thou art

a phrase meaning 'you are'

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *eart*

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