# How far do you consider installations to be works of art?

To fully understand and tackle this question, we must examine two things: what is an installation and what is a work of art? They are, basically, the same thing, however they differ in people’s perception.

A work of art is traditionally a painting or sculpture created by someone with great artistic talent who has been trained in the area he or she works in. When I think of a work of art I think of a painting such as the ‘Mona Lisa’ by Leonardo de Vinci or his ‘The Last Supper’.

When, however, I think of an installation, I think of some examples such as a man who, in London, created a mountain out of thirty thousand bananas. Other examples include an installation done very recently with a bin, a bird, and lots of rubbish (cement, trowel, batteries, ink cartridges and people looking away from it), which I interpreted to be the sea and sea pollution that the bird was dying from and the people did not want to face the consequences of their actions.

For the two examples above, there are people who would disagree with that and say that the banana installation was a complete waste and that those bananas could have been a source of food for the starving in Africa, which was, ironically, the country the bananas were originally imported from.

Each installation carries a message that the artist wishes to put forward, but what you interpret from the installation is not always what the author meant to convey. Interpretation is, above all, a crucial part and different for everyone and anything can be art, it just depends on how you interpret it.

Quite often installations are seen as something thrown together by ‘someone who calls themself an artist’. Those people against the idea may not see certain installations as art because the artist may not have been specifically trained to do it. I think that installations are art, though, because no matter how obscure they are, the author did obviously see them as art and anything can be art, you just need to open your mind and think about the ideas behind it and the artist’s thought pattern while he or she was creating it to start to see the messages.