

= Artpop ( song ) =

" Artpop " ( stylized as " ARTPOP " ) is a song by American recording artist Lady Gaga from her third studio album of the same name ( 2013 ) . The song was written and produced by Lady Gaga , Paul " DJ White Shadow " Blair , Nick Monson , and Dino Zisis . " Artpop " was the first song developed for the album and led the composers to pursue other avenues of musical production . Described as the backbone of the record , Gaga did not want to experiment with the production of " Artpop " , as she believed it to have an infinite aspect in it .

A techno song , " Artpop " features instrumentation from piano and guitars and has computerized musical sounds interspersed in between . The lyrics have been interpreted in different ways , about a love relationship , Gaga 's bonding with her fans , the merging of art and pop , as well as using them to portray her brand value and generate further interest in her . " Artpop " received mixed reviews from critics who praised the low @-@ key composition of the song compared to other tracks on the album , but panned the lyrics and the dated production .

" Artpop " was used in a " not safe for work " video for the album , which featured Gaga in various bizarre attires and a montage of the different promotional material leading to the release . Gaga had premiered " Artpop " during her iTunes Festival performance of tracks from the album . She subsequently performed it at her ArtRave party , on the Lady Gaga and the Muppets ' Holiday Spectacular on ABC with singer Elton John and most recently on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon .

= = Background and development = =

Development of Lady Gaga 's third studio album , Artpop , began shortly after the release of her second one , Born This Way ( 2011 ) , and by the following year , the album 's concepts were " beginning to flourish " as Gaga collaborated with producers Fernando Garibay and DJ White Shadow . However , while on tour for the Born This Way Ball , Gaga had to undergo a hip surgery in February 2013 which forced the singer into a six month hiatus , and this rehabilitation became one of the inspirations behind the album . According to White Shadow , the title track was one of the first songs penned for the album , which created the backbone for the record . Calling it a " defining moment " of Artpop 's creation , the producer explained that the title track led them to explore other avenues in terms of musical aspirations . Written and produced by Gaga , White Shadow , Nick Monson and Dino Zisis , " Artpop " was called the swan song of the album by the singer . Talking to Sirius XM Radio , where she gave an in @-@ depth analysis of each song from the album , Gaga explained :

'Artpop ' is really an inferno and it 's the only song on the record that I didn 't really wanna go anywhere or explode or orgasm . Because then it would just be like composing something that would be just like every other sort of orgasm that I 've ever had . And because its really the center of the record , I really wanted there to be a more infinite tone , to this concept of Art + Pop , that we can put art in the front and not have the corporate world to control in art anymore . How can we the artist back our ideas and for our visions to be the most important thing . The thing that 's driving culture , driving these corporations . I didn 't wanted [ ' Artpop ' ] to grow too much , I wanted it to kind of hypnotize people and become like a mantra .

= = Recording and composition = =

Initial recording sessions for Artpop coincided with the Born This Way Ball . Gaga spent the majority of her recording time on " Artpop " with White Shadow but she did not want the final version to be edited further , unlike her other songs . The song was recorded at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood , California , by Dave Russell and Benjamin Lader , with Lader and Daniel Zaidenstadt also working as assistants during the final mix . Russell also did the mixing of the track for the track at Record Plant and at Heard It ! Studios with additional mixing being done by Dino " SpeedoVee " Zisis . Instrumentation for " Artpop " included piano and guitars by Gaga and Nick Monson . Background

vocals were sung by Nichole Ganther , Natalie Ganther and Lyon Gray with vocal arrangement by Gaga . Finally , Rick Pearl did the additional programming and Gene Grimaldi did the audio mastering at Oasis Mastering Studios in Burbank , California . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com , " Artpop " is set in the time signature of common time , with a dance @-@ pop tempo of 117 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of D minor with Gaga 's vocals spanning the tonal nodes of F3 to A4 . The song follows a basic sequence of Dm ? Gm ? F ? C as its chord progression .

In a review for Billboard , Jason Lipshutz described " Artpop " as Gaga 's manifesto about her creativity , calling it a " lurching electro @-@ jazz beast " who 's beats became louder and complex as it reached climax . Consisting of strings , the techno song has a beat similar to Selena Gomez 's 2011 single " Love You like a Love Song " with its electronic composition , and a groove comparable to singer Kylie Minogue 's 2001 hit single " Can 't Get You Out of My Head " . Interspersed between are computerized musical sounds and the chorus , which has a coo @-@ ing accompanied with the main vocals , like Michael Jackson , and was described by Kevin Harley from The Independent as " sleek Eurodisco " . " Artpop " ' s lyrics have been deduced to be a statement about " the subjectivity of art " . It begins with the singer uttering the lines " Come to me with all your subtext of fantasy " , the line being an indicative of enigma around her , according to The Huffington Post . Gaga explained the lyrics were a metaphor about love with the chorus line " We could belong together , Artpop " . She believed that if her fans and herself could be together , that would probably mean a bonding for art and pop too . On the contrary , Jim Farber from New York Daily News believed that the love relationship was sidelined for that between art and pop with the lyrics .

There are other dimensions to the lyrics , with Gaga playing off her image of self @-@ promotion and criticisms directed at her with the line " I try to sell myself , but I am really laughing because I just want the music not the bling " . In a review for Artpop , Simon Chandler from Tiny Mix Tapes gave a detailed analysis of the lyrical composition . According to him , Gaga wanted to portray her music as boundless in its meaning with " Artpop " , but it appeared to be arrogant since most of the conclusions derived about her music is from her public persona created and its media coverage . Chandler believed that the lyrics wanted to drive home a point about Gaga being the center for any discussion . With the previous lyrics , the implication is that Gaga 's impassive personality utilizes her music to sell her brand name to the general crowd , and primarily fuels the public interest in her .

= = Release and reception = =

A teaser for " Artpop " was previewed as part of snippets from the parent album until its final release on November 11 , 2013 . A " not safe for work " short film , An Artpop Film Starring Lady Gaga , set to the song was released as promotion for the album , on November 20 , 2013 . Shot by Dutch fashion photographer duo Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin , the video consisted of the material that Gaga created with them as promotion leading to Artpop . The video begins with a nude Gaga uttering a monologue : " This album is a celebration . My pain exploding in electronic music . It 's heavy , but after I listen to it I feel happy again . I feel lighter . " Following these are the black @-@ and @-@ white promotional scenes from Artpop campaign announcement , the music video for the first single " Applause " , the nude images for her interview with V magazine and the artwork for promotional single , " Dope " . Gaga shows a range of emotion in the film , including caressing a mannequin and applying dirt on her body , but most of the time she simply stares towards the camera . Zayda Rivera from New York Daily News expressed her difficulty in understanding the film , but added that " hypnotic musical backdrop of her single ' Artpop ' perfectly matches the artsy , bewildering and even disturbing images that run through the fast and slow editing . " Gaga admitted that she had performed for 12 hours while making the film .

The track received mixed reviews from music critics . Mike Wass from Idolator called it an " obtuse synth track " believing the composition to be " ingenious " or " pretentious " , and felt that Gaga 's endeavors kept the pop music scene interesting . Evan Sawdey from PopMatters believed that the vibe of the previous track on the album , " Do What U Want " , carried off to " Artpop " which he

described as " strange " and " hypnotic " and the best thing on the parent album . Harley listed " Artpop " as one of the more aurally pleasurable tracks from the album . Calling it a " standout " track , Andrew Barker from Variety compared Gaga 's vocals to those of Debbie Harry , with their cold disposition . Emily McKey from NME called the song " slow and purring sexy " , believing that the line " My artpop could mean anything " referred to the trivial concept of the album itself . Critic Greg Kot from Chicago Tribune believed that " Artpop " was the only song on the album , where there was a hint of what the actual composition of the over all record should have been . Justin Miller from Harper 's Bazaar called the song more intimate than the previous tracks in the album , but felt it was a techno @-@ ballad and the most diffused composition for Gaga .

Negative reviews came from Holly Williams of Contactmusic.com , who was extremely disappointed with the track . Williams felt a rapid decline in the quality of music with the title track , which she believed should have been " climactic , inventive and a little bit trippy with such a title " but found its tempo to be slow and mundane . Maura Johnson from Spin felt that lyrics like " I just love the music , not the bling " appeared insincere on Gaga 's behalf since her career graph showed that the singer was more infatuated with Fame in the 21st century . " Not the deepest statement , but also not that unique to the new millennium , " Johnson concluded . Los Angeles Times 's Mikael Wood believed that the line was not something that worked in a pop record and believed that along with first single " Applause " , Gaga 's ideas seemed unattainable and not exciting . John Walker from MTV News rated it two out of five stars , calling it boring . Chris Bossman from Consequence of Sound compared the composition of the track to a " dying , old school war dialer " . Melinda Newman from HitFix called the song " too quirky " and felt that it could only be successful if remixed properly . Robert Copsey from Digital Spy believed that the chorus line " My artpop could mean anything " made the concept of the album all the more confusing , instead of simplifying Gaga 's brash statements about her musical outputs . Ericka Welch from The Huffington Post called the song as " pretentious " and the least interesting endeavor on the album . She believed that " Artpop " failed to embody the concept of the album and was plagued with the same inconsequential lyrics that was visible during her Born This Way era . She concluded by giving the example : " Like a mad scientist trying to create life , Gaga 's experiment to fuse ART and POP sometimes results in overly ambitious deformities with six legs . "

= = Live performances = =

Previous to the release of the album or the teasers , Gaga performed " Artpop " live on September 1 , 2013 , at the iTunes Festival in London . The song was the third performance that evening , from a set list containing eight tracks . Following the performance of " Manicure " and a piano interlude , Gaga stripped off her cloths onstage until she was in a sea @-@ shell bikini and an enormous blond wig , and started singing the song . Ashley Percival from The Huffington Post complimented the performance , saying that the song " showed the most promise onstage " . A review at Capital FM website found the song akin to her 2009 single , " Paparazzi " . Jenn Selby from Glamour called the performance a " heartfelt piece of pop music accompanied with its own , YMCA @-@ like arm dance . " Digital Spy 's Copsey was confused with the performance , but enjoyed the downtempo composition of " Artpop " and rated it three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . Writing for The Guardian , Kitty Empire criticized the absence of clothing but praised the overall performance . Gaga next performed " Artpop " during her ArtRave party for the release of the album . Wearing an ensemble that was described by New York Post 's Hardeep Phull as a combination of S & M and the Michelin Man , Gaga performed " Artpop " after opening the ArtRave concert with " Aura " , the first track of the album . The singer had to wade through the crowd of her fans in order to reach the main stage where the rest of the performance took place .

Gaga performed the song on Lady Gaga and the Muppets ' Holiday Spectacular , her second Thanksgiving television special which aired on ABC on November 28 , 2013 . She had invited singer Elton John as special guest star for the performance . After a performance of John 's 1974 single " Bennie and the Jets " , the duo started singing " Artpop " . They were seated opposite to each other on piano , and Gaga was ornamented in a dress made of Coca Cola cans . During the chorus , they

were joined by The Muppets who aided with background vocals . Chris Willman from Billboard called John as the best guest performer of the special . Maricela Gonzales from Entertainment Weekly was impressed with the performance , saying that although she did not understand the message behind the song , " [ w ] hat is clear is that Gaga and Elton John belong together . I 'm serious , I want to go to that show . "

She also performed the song on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on February 18 , 2014 . The performance was the restart of Gaga 's emergence under media spotlight , following a self @-@ imposed sabbatical due to depression and stories about betrayal surrounding the release of Artpop . The singer wore a white dress and sported a platinum blond wig ; the ensemble made her look like fashion designer Donatella Versace . Starting the song as an acoustic version , Gaga played a crystal piano placed atop a ramp at the end of the stage . By the second chorus , the electronic beats of the song started and she descended to the front of the stage to complete the performance with a dance . Carl Williot from Idolator complimented the performance , saying that it made him appreciate the track more . It was praised by Melinda Newman from HitFix who said that " Gaga excels when it is just her at a piano performing the songs with the barest of accompaniment . " At the ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tour of 2014 , " Artpop " was added as the opening song of the set list . The show starts off with a video introduction about the tour , followed by dancers appearing on stage with balloons and blue gazing balls . The video continues to play as Gaga emerges from beneath the stage , wearing a golden leotard with wings and a blue ball attached to her bosom . Dry ice and confetti accompanied her arrival on stage , as Gaga sang the song standing atop two male dancers wearing scuba diving masks .

= = Credits and personnel = =

#### Management

Recorded at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood , California

Stefani Germanotta P / K / A Lady Gaga ( BMI ) Sony ATV Songs LLC / House of Gaga Publishing , LLC / GloJoe Music Inc . ( BMI ) , Maxwell and Carter Publishing , LLC ( ASCAP ) , administered by Universal Music Publishing Group and Maxwell and Carter Publishing , LLC ( BMI ) administered by Universal Music Publishing Group

#### Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Artpop .

= = Charts = =

Following the release of Artpop , the song debuted and reached a peak position of number 185 in France , staying on the chart for just one week . It also reached a peak of number 48 in the Gaon Chart of South Korea , selling 3 @ , @ 157 copies .