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4 page Foreword written by  
Professor Derek Matravers, Open University

246 pages

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## A New Dictionary of Art – One word: 3000 definitions

The essential new book for gallery goers, art students and teachers, and all lovers of contemporary culture.

*A New Dictionary of Art* takes a refreshingly alternative approach to the question 'What is Art?'

Take your pick from over 3000 definitions meticulously compiled from the farthest reaches of the internet.

As you gradually realise that perhaps no single definition can ever suffice, you also see that the sum really is greater than the parts: the definitions taken as a whole provide a wonderfully energizing summation of all the potentials that Art can be.

The result is a streetwise cacophony of possibility.

**Everyone has an opinion about art.  
What's yours?**

### Subject areas:

Art • Philosophy • Contemporary culture/humour

Nielsen BIC Subject & Qualifiers:  
Theory of art (ABA)  
Philosophy: aesthetics (HPN)

*"Killingly good – both splendid and splendidly bonkers"*

Professor Derek Matravers, philosopher

*"Powerfully provocative – one of the most useful things I've read in a while"*

John Clark, painter

*"I can't wait to share this ... great fun wrapped up in a serious question"*

Marylouise Kidd, gallery goer

*"Ridiculously brilliant... gloriously essential"*

Les Bicknell, artist and lecturer

*"A mesmerising accumulation ... spellbinding"*

Egidiya Ćiricaitė, curator and researcher

# Sample spread

art

[L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an internal dialogue of an artist, an attempt to make sense of his or her emotions through expressing them; *provided that expression of emotion, simply as expression, is not addressed to any particular audience: it is addressed primarily to the speaker himself and secondarily to any one who can understand.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an international language which is used through the world. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an intimate part of preparing a person to meditate. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an intuition of beauty. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an inward dive. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*philos*) an item is an artwork at time *t*, where *t* is not earlier than the time at which the item is made, if and only if it is in one of the central art forms at *t* and is made with the intention of fulfilling a function art has at *t* or it is an artefact that achieves excellence in achieving such a function. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an object on display

art

that inspires contemplation, study and discovery as it presents complexities, challenge and joy. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an object or experience. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an object or idea to which someone has devoted time, thought and energy. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an object that does not have any practical purpose. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an observable attribute that persists to defy a normative definition. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an occupation in which skill is employed to gratify taste or produce what is beautiful. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an occupation requiring knowledge or skill: *the art of organ building.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*milit*) an offensive weapon in the defense against the enemy. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an ongoing practice that arises from what was done in the name of art last year or last decade or last century and which speaks to that history and heri-

art

tage of creation, defining itself by and against those practices. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an opportunity to see the world in a different way. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an opportunity to view something differently. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an Oreo™ box design; *and I would even dare to venture to say it had more cultural significance than many paintings out there because it's recognizable and incites a lot of emotions (Oreo™ (1912–), sandwich cookie consisting two chocolate disks with a sweet cream filling).* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*appar fig*) an orgasmic wail of ecstasy and, sometimes, agony. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an original language developed by an artist to express their ideas to others. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an original or unique item or an event that elicits a sensational response; *senses are aroused by this item or event; it doesn't have to be pretty... just memorable and stand out.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outlet for inner hu-

art

man turmoil. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outlet for pain. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outlet for some people who really want to show their emotions. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outsider. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outward expression of a person's thoughts put on paper either through painting, drawing, writing or sculpture; *I don't feel there is any ugly art; there is beauty in art.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outward expression of internal ideas and abstractions. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an outward expression of your inner viewpoint or aspiration. [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* an unstable category; *it lives or dies according to rules that cannot ever be systematised.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*econ*) an upper-class activity associated with wealth; *the ability to purchase art; and the leisure required to pursue or enjoy it.* [L *ars, artis*]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*appar joc*) anchovies, raisins and toast. [acronym]

**art** /ärt/ *n* (*fig*) another link in the

A NEW DICTIONARY OF



one word  
3000 definitions

/ ed Robert Good /



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### Editor

Editor Robert Good is an artist who works with text to consider the frailties of language and the problems of knowledge. Deconstructing texts, systems and structures, Good's meticulous doubt combined with a desire for certainty sets up a fault line of both tension and humour throughout his work.

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### Designer

Designer Jane Glennie is an artist and typographer who works with installation and poetry film, while remaining fervent on the finer points of typesetting.

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### Launch

The book was published in October 2017 following a crowdfunding campaign. It was the top trending Indiegogo arts project, and exceeded its target raising £2,855. The first numbered edition of 300 softbacks and 50 hardbacks sold out before Christmas.