

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 9

9. Art since the 1960s encompasses a wide variety of approaches.

Address this variety of approaches through the careful choice and detailed discussion of two works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists OR in different media. Be sure to fully identify each work. (30 minutes)

#### Background:

This question asks students to discuss two works created within approximately the past 50 years. Artists who emerged in the 1960s began approaching the making of art against a background of varied social and political developments: consumerism, information age technology, feminism, civil rights, globalism, multiculturalism, and so on. An exciting age saw the arrival of a wide range of approaches, such as installation art, earthworks, video art, performance art, body art, and conceptual art. Artists of this generation, whether working in traditional or nontraditional media, began to blur distinctions between “high” and “low” and to question notions of modern progressiveness and originality.

#### Students have two tasks:

- (1) To fully identify two works made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists or in different media.
- (2) To address the variety of approaches in art since the 1960s through a discussion of the two works.

Better essays fully identify two appropriate works of art after 1960. These responses communicate an understanding of the approaches exemplified in each work and recognize that the production of art in this time period encompasses a wide variety of approaches.

Weaker essays may include a discussion of only one work created after 1960 or discuss two works by the same artist made with the same medium. These responses may have vague identifications that refer only to general types of artworks or that are unrelated to the approach discussed. Essays that simply describe the works, providing little or no critical analysis of the approach utilized by the artists, earn lower scores.

#### Points to remember:

- Appropriate choices are works that were created about 1960 and after.
- This question requires an identification that makes it clear to the reader which specific work of art is being discussed. Sometimes the full identification may be located within the body of the essay.
- If one artist is selected, then two works of distinctively different media must be chosen.
- If two different artists are selected, they may use the same approach to art making.

#### Scoring Criteria

##### Score Scale 0–9

- 9–8** Fully identifies two appropriate works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists or in different media. Provides a full analysis of how both works exemplify varied approaches to making art since 1960. The lower score is earned when the essay is somewhat unbalanced or has minor errors.
- 7–6** Fully identifies two appropriate works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists or in different media. Provides an analysis of how both works exemplify varied approaches to making art since 1960 but displays less understanding of each approach than a 9–8 essay. The lower score is earned when an essay is notably unbalanced or contains errors significant enough to weaken the analysis.

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**Question 9 (continued)**

- 5** This is the highest score an essay can earn if it deals with one appropriate choice fully and correctly.  
*OR*  
Identifies two appropriate works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists or in different media. Identification may be incomplete or faulty. Approaches may be identified but not analyzed. The essay is mostly descriptive, and it may be unbalanced and contain errors.
- 4–3** Identifies two works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists or in different media. Identification may be incomplete or faulty, and choices may be inappropriate. Approaches may be incorrectly identified. The essay is descriptive, and discussion is unbalanced or general. The lower score is earned when the essay lacks meaningful discussion or contains significant errors.  
*OR*  
Only one appropriate choice is identified. The discussion is not developed and contains errors with little or no understanding of the approach used by the artist. The lower score is earned when the essay is weaker, wholly descriptive, lacks meaningful discussion, or contains significant errors.
- 2–1** Identification of the two works is incomplete and/or inappropriate. If choices are appropriate, there is minimal discussion.  
*OR*  
Only one appropriate choice is identified, and the discussion is incomplete and inaccurate. The lower score is earned when there is no discussion of merit.
- 0** Makes an attempt, but the response is without merit because it restates the question, includes no identifiable choices, or makes only incorrect or irrelevant statements.
- This is a nonresponse, such as a blank paper, crossed-out words, or personal notes.

**Directions for Question 9:** You have 30 minutes to answer Question 9. Read the question and take a moment to think about what the question asks. You can receive full credit only by answering the question asked. Therefore, spend a few minutes organizing or outlining your response in the blank space provided above the question. Notes in the blank space will not be graded. Be sure to analyze each question carefully and choose appropriate examples. Identify your examples as fully as possible.

Bay Side - Frankenthaler  
 color field painting  
 post-painterly abstraction  
 pouring of paint

David Smith - Cubi  
 2-D of sculp. - sand  
 welded metal blocks

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Art from the 1960's to the present is the most varied in the history of art. Regional styles have almost been eliminated and personal style dominates the art world. Two good examples are Bay Side by Frankenthaler and the Cubi series by David Smith. ~~Both~~ Both provide very different examples of personal style.

Bay Side by Frankenthaler is a ~~color-field painting and post-painterly abstr~~ a color field painting which means that <sup>diluted</sup> paint is poured onto the canvas and then the canvas is tilted to allow the paint to run. Bay Side consists of a large splotch of blue in the middle with varied hue surrounded by splotches of green and brown. The work is post-painterly abstractionism because no brush strokes are visible on the work. This method of painting is very innovative and opens up many possibilities.

Another example of personal style is the Cubi series by David Smith. Smith used his welding skills to create sculptures of asymmetrical rectangles and cubes that seem to be bunched

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together in ~~space~~ thier space. The cubes are all welded together at edges and follow irregular patterns. The work is not minimalist however because Smith took a circular sander and scratched up the sides of the cubes. This is to assect the two-dimensional features of a three-dimensional sculpture. When you move around the works, the scratches catch and reflect light in different ways.

In summary, most artists past the 1960's are characterized by individual style. Many choose to present thier art in abstract and expressive forms. Also, many use new and innovative techniques to create thier art, which open up numerous possibilities. These two artists are only a sample of what ~~current~~ contemporary art has to offer.

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category

9B,

~~9B,~~  
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Jackson Pollack  
Andy Warhol  
~~Marcel Duchamp~~  
The Gates  
Jean and Claude  
Robert Rauschenberg (Combines, assemblage)  
~~Robert Rauschenberg~~  
The Raven

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The artwork made between 1960s and the present is all very different. A wide variety of work has been made during that time and it doesn't all fall into one ~~category~~ category, such as Renaissance or Baroque artwork does. Two very different examples of artwork during this time are Robert Rauschenberg's, 'The Raven', and The Gates.

Robert Rauschenberg is very famous for his 'Combines,' such as his 'Raven' piece. Better known as assemblage art, Rauschenberg's combines are a collection of things, like a ~~3D~~ three-dimensional sort of collage, that come together to form a piece of artwork. Though the pieces incorporated in Rauschenberg's work may seem random at first glance, they really all tie into each other. For example, he will put a bit into his piece, and

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also a feathered pillow, so the two are somewhat connected to each other. Rauchenberg's art approach is more of a sort of collage kind of work and is somewhat random and up for interpretation. The objects in it that are three-dimensional are very appealing to the eye and Rauchenberg's work is very unique.

Very different from Rauchenberg's combines are 'The Gates', which were fairly recently made by Jean and Claude. The gates were a series of orange, gate-like fabric going around Central Park, in New York City. The project was meant to add some color and happiness to the dreary winter in New York. Jean and Claude's work is very different in that it is only short term and is more of an experience than just something visual. The Gates were something never seen before in art and something like them will probably never be seen again.

Art during the 1960's to present is very hard to classify because there were so many different approaches to it. Because it is all so different, most of the artwork is either hated by some or loved by some. Art during this time is not so much about pleasing everyone else, but it is more about the artist just doing their own thing. This is very evident in Rauchenberg's combines, such as the Raven, and in The Gates. All the approaches to these recent works of art are very widely varied.

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Art since the 1960's to contemporary time has changed dramatically from Classical, Renaissance, ~~and~~ Futurist, and many more periods of art. Art today comes anything that is original, comes from any material never used. Two works that are examples of this variety are the Bilbao Museum in Spain and the Sears Tower in Chicago. Both structures have their own unique characteristics, some of which come from earlier periods.

The Bilbao Museum is constructed of titanium throughout the structure and dominantly on the exterior. This material give the structure an incredible shine when the sun hits it. By using this innovative material for exterior use, we can get a better understanding of how much variety artists have during the present

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9C2

day. This museum represents ~~the~~ ~~total~~ art of the time we live in.

The Sears Tower is another structure that complements our time. The building is dominated with glass windows, which is not uncommon, especially since the Crystal Palace was built before the 1960's. What makes this structure so innovative is that it seems as if buildings have been stacked on top of one another. At one time it was also the tallest structure made by man, which also separates from buildings before the 1960's.

Today art is everywhere and in everything, because for artists today any piece of art could be constructed from anything to anything. This ability to be ~~so~~ so flexible has produced some of the most brilliant and amazing works ever created or thought of.

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# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY 2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 9

### Overview

The intent of the question was to identify two works of art created since 1960 that demonstrate the wide variety of artistic approaches in contemporary art.

### Sample: 9A

**Score: 9**

The student discusses two appropriate and fully identified works of art: Helen Frankenthaler's painting *Bay Side* and sculptor David Smith's *Cubi* series. The essay provides a full analysis of how both choices exemplify varied approaches to making art since 1960. Both examples carry equal weight. Discussion of the Frankenthaler work mentions "color field painting," the artist's technique, "post-painterly abstractionism," and the fact that "no brush strokes are visible"; the student notes that, "This method of painting is very innovative and opens up many possibilities." Discussion of Smith's work mentions welding techniques, "assymetrical [*sic*] rectangles and cubes," and "irregular patterns." The student writes, "Smith took a circular sander and scratched up the sides of the cubes. This is to assert the two-dimensional features of a three-dimensional sculpture. When you move around the works, the scratches catch and reflect light in different ways." Both discussions provide a full analysis of how the two choices exemplify a particular approach to art making since 1960.

### Sample: 9B

**Score: 5**

The student chooses two appropriate works of art, but the identifications are incomplete and faulty. The correct title for the Rauschenberg work is *Canyon*. The names "Jean" and "Claude" are incorrect for the artists of *The Gates*: they are Jeanne-Claude and Christo. Discussion of the works is weak and lacks meaningful information. In considering the Rauschenberg piece, the essay does mention combines, assemblage, and three-dimensional collage. *The Gates* discussion indicates an understanding of the ephemeral nature of the work. Overall, discussion of the two works is uneven, with the student's consideration of the Rauschenberg work having slightly more substance.

### Sample: 9C

**Score: 3**

The student chooses two appropriate works of art (the Bilbao Museum in Spain and the Sears Tower in Chicago), but identification is incomplete: there is no mention of the architects. Discussion of both examples is weak and undeveloped, showing little understanding of the approach used by the architects. The only relevant piece of information about Bilbao is that it is "con[s]tructed of titanium," and the only relevant information about the Sears Tower is that it has "glass windows" and was once the tallest building in the world.