

Ayn Rand's Theory of Art

Readings from *What Art Is: The Esthetic Theory of Ayn Rand*
for Advanced Seminar in Objectivist Studies
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
June 28, 2001

The following selections from *What Art Is* constitute the reading for discussion in the session featuring Michelle Marder Kamhi and Louis Torres.

Note: In addition to listed sections, the readings include the introductory paragraphs for each chapter.

Text Pages	Corresponding Note Nos.
Introduction, pp. 1-3 and pp. 7-16 Traditional Meanings of the Term "Art" The Ubiquitous Question: "But Is It Art?" The Experts Speak Need for a Valid Theory and Definition of Art Ayn Rand's Theory of Art	1-8, 40-77
Ch. 1 - "The Psycho-Epistemology of Art," pp. 23-33 The Purpose of Art Metaphysical Value-Judgments Rand's Definition of Art The Cognitive Function of Art The Creative Process Art, Religion, and Philosophy Art and Ethics Romanticism and Naturalism	1-51
Ch. 2 - "Philosophy and Sense of Life," pp. 35-42 Emotional Abstraction Philosophy and Sense of Life Sense of Life and Character	1-26
Ch. 3 - "Art and Sense of Life," pp. 43-51 Emotion and "Expression" in Art "Communication" in Art The Significance of Artistic Selectivity	1-40

The Response to Art

Text Pages	Corresponding Note Nos.
Ch. 4 - “Art and Cognition,” pp. 60-62, 75-76 introductory paragraphs The Arts and Cognition	1-8
Ch. 5 – Music and Cognition, pp. 87-90 Music as a “Re-Creation of Reality”	41-57
Ch. 6 - The Definition of Art, pp. 94-108 entire chapter	1-60
Ch. 7 - Scientific Support for Rand’s Theory, pp. 109-30 entire chapter	1-90
Ch. 8 - Architecture: “Art” or “Design”? – pp. 189-200 entire chapter	1-52

**List of Important Authors’ Corrections for *What Art Is: The Esthetic Theory of Ayn Rand*
Ch. 6 - The Definition of Art**

Page 106 - middle of the page - should read: Her fullest explication of *metaphysical value-judgments* as they pertain to the arts . . .

Page 107 - line 8 - should read: that she had originally employed the term “values”—though not “fundamental” or “basic” values—in her definition and had then replaced it with “metaphysical value-judgments.”

Page 107 - lines 16-17 - delete: not “fundamental” or “basic” values—

Page 107 - line 6 from bottom - replace phrase ,which includes his deepest values. *with the words* this criterion of importance.

Page 107 - line 3 from bottom: - include *should read* exclude

Page 107 - last line: *period after* sense of life *should be a comma.*

Page 108 - line 6: store *should read* stores

Page 107 - line 3 from bottom - definition of art) and either of should read definition of art (and either of [In other words, change close parenthesis to open parenthesis.]

