

Brief History of Art and design

20th-21st century

# 10 Global Contemporary Art and Design

(2000–nowadays)

VOCABULARY  
for English lesson



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**LM**  
LIEPĀJAS MŪZIKAS,  
MĀKSLAS UN DIZAINA  
VIDUSSKOLA



**Empower** **ED**

Materials created within Erasmus+ Small-scale partnership project "EmpowerED: Fostering Employability, Cultural Understanding, and Digital Resilience in VET Education" No 2023-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000178458 Implemented from 1.04.2024. till 31.03.2026. by coordinator MIKC "Liepājas Mūzikas, mākslas un dizaina vidusskola" (Latvia) and project partner Střední umělecko průmyslová škola Uherské Hradiště (Czech Republic), total project budget is 60 000 euro.

# VOCABULARY

## TASK 1:

**Provide a word or phrase for each explanation of CONTEMPORARY ART related terms!**

<p>1. This non-figurative art does not imitate or portray any visible subject. It is the reduction of a subject. This form of art became the dominant form in modern art, and its impact is felt to this very day.</p>	
<p>2. This term is associated with beauty and external good looks, such as aesthetic surgery or dental care that focus on the appearance of the body. The word derives originally from the Greek word for perception. An experience that can in principle be evoked by anything that is perceptible to us, whether art, a townscape or a swamp.</p>	
<p>3. It literally means 'to make one's own'. In contemporary art, it refers to the deliberate reworking of borrowed elements. An artist might, for instance, create a new artwork by recycling another artist's earlier work, a part thereof, or a pre-existing image, form, style, material or technique.</p>	
<p>4. The physical embodiment of a work of conceptual art can be a sentence on a piece of paper or a polished section of the floor. The actual object may even be missing altogether. The important thing is the idea, which makes the viewer think. This form of art emphasises the active reception and interpretation of art. It challenges the viewers' habits of thinking and observation and their ideas about knowledge and reality.</p>	
<p>5. This form of art is often difficult to assess with the same criteria as used for older art, such as beauty or skill. The point of a work of art may be something that has nothing to do with how the work looks. It can be an insight, an event or even a feeling evoked by the work.</p>	
<p>6. It is a common term in the contexts of contemporary art. This type of art-work engulfs the viewer and often involves several senses at once. It may pull you into virtual reality or invite you to walk and act in physical space. When it is total, you lose track of reality beyond the artwork.</p>	
<p>7. It is a spatially constructed work of art. It can consist of everyday objects, exhibition structures, lights, sounds or video projections. It can also incorporate people. The components can be separate and represent different art forms, but they are united by some common theme, idea or aim.</p>	

<p>8. The idea of contemporary art involves an active encounter between the work and the viewer. A work of art only acquires a meaning or is realised at the moment when the viewer and the work meet.</p>	
<p>9. This form of art consists of videos, sounds, media performances, multimedia, games or online works. It uses electronic media as its medium but often combines it with other elements. For instance, a video installation can consist of video projections as well as objects and structures.</p>	
<p>10. It is associated with the specialisation of art forms and a refocusing on the intrinsic expressive styles of each medium. The medium and its potential became the central content of art. In visual art, the important aspects were material, form, colour and rhythm. Theme and story could be discarded, and abstract art gained ground.</p>	

SOURCE:

<https://kiasma.fi/en/glossary-of-contemporary-art-terms/>**TASK 2:****Insert the most appropriate word or phrase in each empty gap!**

1. The artist created an \_\_\_\_\_ painting that uses bold colours and shapes to express emotions.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the gallery was minimalistic, allowing the artworks to stand out.
3. Some artists use \_\_\_\_\_ to recontextualize existing works and challenge traditional ideas.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ often focuses on the idea behind the artwork rather than its physical form.
5. Many \_\_\_\_\_ artists explore social issues through their work to engage with current events.
6. At the exhibition, I wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ myself in the vibrant world of modern art.

7. The \_\_\_\_\_ featured various elements that transformed the space into an interactive experience.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ between the audience and the artwork is a key aspect of many performance pieces.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ combines technology with creativity to produce innovative visual experiences.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ laid the foundation for many \_\_\_\_\_ art movements we see today.