

<b>The Meaning of Art</b>	
<i>Art and Power</i> : Art is a line around your thoughts. — <i>Gustav Klimt</i>	
	What is the meaning of Art?
At the end of the Unit, I will	Introduce the class to a piece of Art you think needs to be saved
What vocabulary will I need ?	- description - perception
What grammatical structure will I need ?	- modals - perception verbs - expressing an opinion
What documents will be used ?	<p><b>1- Minimalist Art</b>            1a- Donald Judd, entitled, 1971, Guggenheim Museum            1b - Albert Bierstadt, The Rocky Mountains, Lander’s Peak, 1863 Metropolitan Museum of Art            1c- Ad Reinhard’s famous black paintings and the reaction they triggered (cartoons, New Yorker):            (1) - Robert Day, March 14, 1967            (2)- <i>Everett Opie, January 26, 1976</i>            (3)- <i>William O’Brian, August 19, 1967</i>            4)- J. B. Handelsman, October 30, 1989            (5)- <i>James Stevenson, January 18, 1958</i>            (6)- <i>Benoit van Innis, December 3, 1990.</i></p> <p><b>2- Off the aesthetic beaten tracks</b>            2a- Writing controversial poetry, 3 and 12, EE Cummings, 1983 (posthumous)            2b- building controversy : Guggenheim museum 1st impressions            2c - An Inside Look at New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, <i>Open House TV</i>,            2d- Banksy - A Great British Spraycation (August 13, 2021), Banksy.blog            2e- The Making of a Legend: Banksy's - Girl With Balloon Shredded at Auction</p> <p><b>3- Challenging morality</b>            3a- Once Upon a time, Nadine Gordiner, 1989            3b- How “Philadelphia” Has, And Hasn’t, Changed How We See AIDS, abridged from Adam B. Vary, <i>BuzzFeed News Reporter</i>, December 4, 2018</p> <p><b>4- Art and Censorship</b>            4a : Common Reasons Given for Challenging or Banning</p>

	Books, <i>Arizona State University Library Guide</i> 4b- Banned books: What a new wave of restrictions could mean for students , USA TODAY, 2022 4c- Changes to Roald Dahl's classic children's books spark censorship spat, Lianne Kolirin, <i>CNN, Feb 11 2023</i>
What will I learn about ?	- how social expectations change over year - what links people - the pressure of society
Final Task	You are a journalist. Write an article about a controversial artistic project which is about to be censored.

### Instructions for your Final Task :

- 1- You will have an hour full to write this article
- 2- You will be allowed to use pictures or notes prepared before hand, but not a full written article to be copied
- 3- You will have your grading sheet on D-day and will need to respect the expectations as described on the sheet (you will not all have the same one)
- 4- You will need to explain the reason why this piece of art is to be censored
- 5-And the reasons why you think it needs to be saved.

#### 1- Minimalist Art (manuel LLCE

comparaison Donald Judd, entitled, 1971, Guggenheim Museum et Albert Bierstadt, The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak , 1863 Metropolitan Museum of Art (inspiré du manuel LLCE Meeting Point Nathan)

description du tableau 1 puis 2 : observe and react to each painting

compare how the notion of space is expressed in both paintings

tell which piece of art do you prefer and why

drive a conclusion about what type of museum are the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan

pick a piece of art of either Museum (on line) and introduce us to your choice

#### 1c- Ad Reinhard and Ad Reinhardt cartoons the NewYorker 1967 x 6 (cf photos en fin de pages)

donner dossier en group work aux élèves: une photo de Ad Reinhard + l'explication suivante

For the last ten years of his life, between 1957 and 1967, the abstract expressionist painter Ad Reinhardt focused exclusively on the colour black, creating austere, square, pictures he described as 'ultimate paintings'.

Anne-Charlotte Legrand- Académie de Versailles

Et deux cartoons (faire varier les cartoons et les photos de sorte à ce que chaque groupe ait une composition différente).

Look at the different cartoons and picture you were given.

Discuss them in your group

choose the most revealing one

introduce us to one of them and to the picture.

Passage au tableau des groupes

conclusion: what is the impact of minimal art?

What are the different messages conveyed by the cartoonist

et TE personnelle: Do you think is minimal art inspiring? (ramassée, notée?)

## 2- Off the beaten track

EE Cummings poem (manuel p 40)

travail sur les 2 poèmes en pair work, avant de donner explication sur EE Cummings

impression visuelle, et reconstitution des phrases

3- The sky was candy luminous, edible, spry pinks shy lemons, greens cool chocolates under a locomotive spouting violets

12- birds here, inventing air Using twilight's vastness Be look now come soul; & and whose voices are"

// entre visuel et la phrase

présentation des poèmes par les groupes – opinion

rédaction d'un poème à la manière de

E.E Cummings (1894-1962) est un poète, écrivain et peintre américain connu pour son rôle dans le mouvement de la poésie avant-gardiste et moderniste (*modernist free-form poetry*). Il écrit plus de 2 900 poèmes et fut ami avec Gertrude Stein, femme de lettres et amis des écrivains de la *Lost Generation* à Paris, ainsi qu'avec Ezra Pound, poète moderniste américain. Ces deux poèmes proviennent du recueil publié en 1994 par Richard S. Kennedy et intitulé *E.E. Cummings, Selected Poems*. Ces poèmes n'ont pas de titre, c'est donc le ou les premiers mots qui permettent de les désigner, ou encore le chiffre donné dans le recueil (3 et 12). On peut noter que la publication de *The sky was candy luminous* est posthume puisqu'elle date de 1983. Le poète aimait jouer avec la typographie : on trouve donc régulièrement son nom écrit en minuscules : e.e. cummings.

2b- building controversy : Guggenheim museum 1st impressions

2c - An Inside Look at New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, *Open House TV*,

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Guggenheim:

travail sur la photo + vidéo : [An Inside Look at New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum - YouTube](#)

list the positive elements and the negatives elements.

Write an article on the opening day – take position and make sure to emphasize it

2d- Banksy - A Great British Spraycation (August 13, 2021), Banksy.blog

repérage sur la vidéo des oeuvres qui nous ont marqué: raisons pour lesquelles on les a repéré,

réaction des gens, message passé derrière la video type blog

2e- The Making of a Legend: Banksy's - Girl With Balloon Shredded at Auction

banksy vidéo ballon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kTwpOxEgzM&t=7s>

prise de note, retranscription des pensées d'un des témoins (pair work noté)

### 3- Challenging morality

3a- Nadine Gordimer : Once Upon a time, travail sur la nouvelle, découpée en 3 parties, Apartheid, biographie de Nadine Gordimer

écriture en classe note d'une short story à la manière de : donner un but à son histoire

3c- travail sur le film Philadelphia: texte

### 4- Art and Censorship

4a : Common Reasons Given for Challenging or Banning Books, *Arizona State University Library Guide*: réaction suite aux raisons données

liste de quel livres on pense

4b- Banned books: What a new wave of restrictions could mean for students , USA TODAY, 2022

CO classique noté

retour en correction

4c- Changes to Roald Dahl's classic children's books spark censorship spat, Lianne Kolirin, *CNN, Feb 11 2023*

*travail sur le texte*

*argumentation pour et contre*



“A building that should be put in a museum to show how mad the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is.”

*The New York Daily Mirror*, 1959

“The building itself is an attraction for visitors, which is one of the things that sets the Guggenheim apart from other NYC art museums, like MoMA.”

Howard Halle, *Time Out*, 2019

“A symbol of our free society which welcomes new expressions of the creative spirit of man.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1959

“I think the legacy of this building is in the message that architecture does not have to lie down and play dead in front of art.”

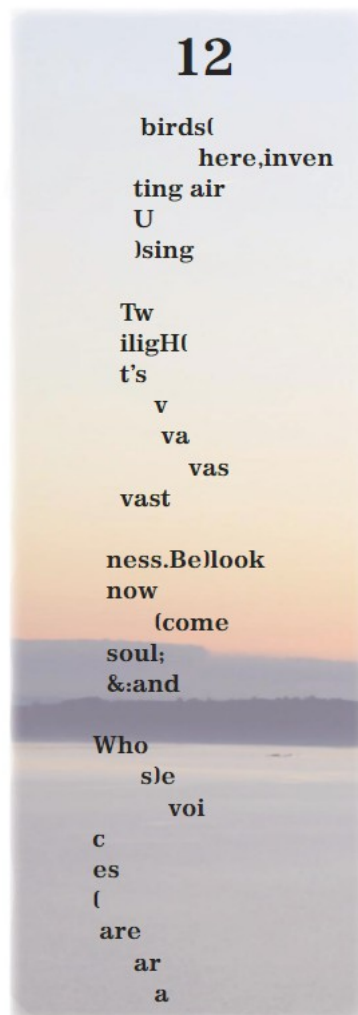
Paul Goldberger, architecture critic for *The New Yorker*, 2009

“It’s a giant lavatory basin.”

Woody Allen, quoted in *The Independent*, 1992

“Wright’s monumental and ultimately mischievous failure.”

Critic Lewis Mumford, *The New Yorker*, 1959



E. E. Cummings, 1935 ■

#### 4- Art and Censorship

4a : **Common Reasons Given for Challenging or Banning Books**, *Arizona State University Library Guide*

4b- CO Banned books: What a new wave of restrictions could mean for students , USA TODAY, 2022  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDcqAsyg\\_hc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDcqAsyg_hc)

4c- Changes to Roald Dahl's classic children's books spark censorship spat, Lianne Kolirin, *CNN, Feb 11 2023*

#### 3d- How “Philadelphia” Has, And Hasn’t, Changed How We See AIDS

In 1988, screenwriter Ron Nyswaner got a distraught phone call from filmmaker Jonathan Demme. Demme’s best friend had just been diagnosed with AIDS — then a death sentence that promised unspeakable suffering. According to Demme, the only thing he knew to do with his grief and terror was to make a movie about the disease, and he wanted to know if Nyswaner would make it with him. “My response was immediate. I said, ‘Of course.’” At that time, AIDS had been ravaging the country for seven years, devastating an entire generation of gay men and stoking a palpable and unshakable panic. It was no less than a public health catastrophe, but the entertainment industry had done almost nothing on a major scale to depict it.

Anti-LGBT prejudice had only just started in the 1970s, but the hysteria over AIDS in the 1980s had literalized the lie that LGBT people were dangerous. An openly gay lead character still felt practically impossible, let alone one with a terminal illness. In that hostile environment, making the first mainstream movie about a gay man with AIDS could have seemed exceptionally daunting. To have a real impact within the culture, however, Nyswaner and Demme quickly realized they had to take the biggest swing possible with their film. Nyswaner said. “We knew we wanted to make a mainstream, commercial success ... that would appeal to the largest audience possible.”

They succeeded. *Philadelphia* opened on Dec. 22, 1993, and was an immediate hit. The film was No. 1 at the domestic box office two weekends in a row. Tom Hanks won the Oscar for Best Actor for playing the film’s hero, Andrew Beckett, a gay lawyer with AIDS, and Bruce Springsteen won an Oscar and multiple Grammys for his haunting song “Streets of Philadelphia,” which opens the film.

After their initial conversation, Demme and Nyswaner settled on the reassuring structure of the courtroom drama, which would allow an audience to watch their protagonist actively participate in fighting discrimination. After Andrew is suddenly fired from his prestigious law firm, he suspects it’s because the managing partners realized he’s gay and has AIDS, two facts he’d hidden from them. Andy decides to sue for wrongful termination. The only lawyer who will represent him, however, is Joe Miller (Denzel Washington). He initially begs off working with Andy out of his fear of AIDS and loathing of gay people, and only agrees to take the case after he witnesses Andy experiencing the kind of casual discrimination in a law library that Joe knows all too well as a black man trying to build a career as a lawyer. Joe’s slow-burn friendship with Andy ends up forming the heart of the movie.

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Watching *Philadelphia* today, though, what is even more striking is how Andy and Miguel's relationship as a loving, committed couple *still* feels uncommon — in any mainstream entertainment. Of all the potentially controversial elements in *Philadelphia*, the scene that often caused audiences to react with the most vocal incredulity when it first played in theaters was when Andy and Miguel visit Andy's entire family at his childhood home, and they shower them both with unequivocal love and support. American attitudes about LGBT civil rights have undergone such a radical transformation in the last 25 years that it's bracing to recall a time when it was such an accepted truth that gay people were universally rejected by their families that portraying otherwise came off like a preposterous fantasy.

If the depiction of Andy's family has caught up with the times, the element of *Philadelphia* that feels the most of its own time is the character of Joe — namely, his flagrant homophobia. In one early scene, Joe spells out to his wife how much the idea of gay people and gay sex repulses him. At the time, Joe was meant to be the surrogate for the vast majority of the film's intended audience.

The most poignant and heartbreaking aspect of *Philadelphia* now is how it stands as one of the only documents — and certainly the most well known — of what it meant to be alive at that time, and of the people who no longer are. On Jan. 1, 1995, just over a year after the movie opened, the New York Times reported that of the 53 people with HIV or AIDS who appear in *Philadelphia*, 43 had already died. "I watch the movie with a lot of grief," Nyswaner said. "I knew most of those people. So to me, I'm looking at a photo book of people that are gone." In the same breath, however, Nyswaner described making the movie as a "joyful" experience. "It's all very personal," he said. "I understand that there's a sociological aspect to this movie, but it was the greatest two or three years of my life in many ways. ... The set was filled with joy."

abridged from Adam B. Vary, *BuzzFeed News Reporter*, December 4, 2018

**Common Reasons Given for Challenging or Banning Books, Arizona State University Library Guide**

Each book that is banned or censored is done so for the content within the pages. There are a few common reasons that books have been banned or censored in schools, libraries, and book stores. These include:

**Racial Issues:** About and/or encouraging racism towards one or more group of people.

**Encouragement of "Damaging" Lifestyles:** Content of book encourages lifestyle choices that are not of the norm or could be considered dangerous or damaging. This could include drug use, co-habitation without marriage, or homosexuality.

**Blasphemous Dialog:** The author of the book uses words such as "God" or "Jesus" as profanity. This could also include any use of profanity or swear words within the text that any reader might find offensive.

**Sexual Situations or Dialog:** Many books with content that include sexual situations or dialog are banned or censored.

**Violence or Negativity:** Books with content that include violence are often banned or censored. Some books have also been deemed too negative or depressing and have been banned or censored as well.

**Presence of Witchcraft:** Books that include magic or witchcraft themes. A common example of these types of books are J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Series.

**Religious Affiliations (unpopular religions):** Books have been banned or censored due to an unpopular religious views or opinions in the content of the book. This is most commonly related to satanic or witchcraft themes found in the book. Although, many books have also been banned or censored for any religious views in general that might not coincide with the public view.

**Political Bias:** Most Commonly occurs when books support or examine extreme political parties/philosophies such as: fascism, communism, anarchism, etc.

**Age Inappropriate:** These books have been banned or censored due to their content and the age level at which they are aimed. In some cases children's books are viewed to have "inappropriate" themes for the age level at which they are written for.

#### **4b- Changes to Roald Dahl's classic children's books spark censorship spat**

Dahl, who died in 1990 at age 76, was the creator of characters such as Matilda, the BFG, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Willy Wonka and the Twits. His books have sold more than 300 million copies and have been translated into 63 languages, while there have been numerous adaptations of his work

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Dahl, who died in 1990 at age 76, was the creator of characters such as Matilda, the BFG and, Willy Wonka. His books have sold more than 300 million copies and have been translated into 63 languages, while there have been numerous adaptations of his work for both the big and small screens. However, the author has long been regarded as controversial and in 2020 his estate officially apologized for antisemitic comments made during his lifetime.

It has now emerged that current editions of his books, published by Puffin, feature the following wording at the bottom of the copyright page: "Words matter. The wonderful words of Roald Dahl can transport you to different worlds and introduce you to the most marvelous characters. This book was written many years ago and so we regularly review the language to ensure that it can continue to be enjoyed by all today." These revisions have been worked on by "sensitivity readers" from an organization called Inclusive Minds, which describes itself as "a collective for people who are passionate about inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility in children's literature, and are committed to changing the face of children's books."

In a lengthy report published on Saturday, British newspaper The Daily Telegraph revealed that it had found hundreds of changes across the author's many children's books. Close analysis by its journalists revealed that language relating to gender, race, weight, mental health and violence had been cut or rewritten. This included removing words such as "fat" and "ugly," as well as descriptions using the colors black and white. Journalists working on the piece found 59 changes in "The Witches" alone."

Booker prizewinner Salman Rushdie took to Twitter Saturday to voice his opposition to the move by Puffin, in conjunction with the late author's estate. "Roald Dahl was no angel but this is absurd censorship. Puffin Books and the Dahl estate should be ashamed,". Rushdie, 75, is no stranger to the debate around censorship. Following the release of his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses," the then-Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling for the his death. The Indian-born author lost the sight in one eye after being attacked at a lecture in New York last year.

Even British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has now waded into the Dahl controversy, speaking out against the move to update the books. When asked at a press briefing on Monday whether it is right to censor children's books, Sunak's spokesperson replied: "When it comes to our rich and varied literary heritage, the Prime Minister agrees with the BFG that you shouldn't 'gobblefunk around with words.'" The spokesperson added "We've always defended the right to free speech and expression."

In a statement sent to CNN, the author's estate, the Roald Dahl Story Company, explained that the current review with Puffin, and in partnership with Inclusive Minds, began in 2020 -- the year before Dahl's works were acquired by Netflix. It said: "We want to ensure that Roald Dahl's wonderful stories and characters continue to be enjoyed by all children today. When publishing new print runs of books written years ago, it's not unusual to review the language used alongside updating other details including a book's cover and page layout. Our guiding principle throughout has been to maintain the storylines, characters, and the irreverence and sharp-edged spirit of the original text. Any changes made have been small and carefully considered."

Suzanne Nossel, CEO of PEN America, a network of writers protecting freedom of expression,

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responded angrily to news of the revisions on social media. In a thread of 13 tweets, she said the organization was "alarmed" by the changes. She wrote: "If we start down the path of trying to correct for perceived slights instead of allowing readers to receive and react to books as written, we risk distorting the work of great authors and clouding the essential lens that literature offers on society."

Philip Pullman, the acclaimed author of the "His Dark Materials" fantasy series, took a somewhat different approach to the news. While he did not express support for the changes, he told BBC Radio 4's "Today" show that Dahl's books should be left to "fade away." He highlighted the fact that whatever changes might be made today, millions of older editions are circulating in schools, libraries, second-hand stores and elsewhere. He said: "All those words are still there. Are you going to round up all the books and cross them out with a big black pen?" Pullman acknowledged that language changes over time and said children should be encouraged to pick up alternative authors. Of Dahl's books, he said: "Let them fade away -- read better writers."

Lianne Kolirin, *CNN, Feb 11 2023*