

TASK: PUZZLES AND THEORIES

Assume that avant-garde art works are puzzling and also that they are puzzling because they challenge traditional theories of art. Your task is to state a condition (1) which is part of a theory of art and (2) which is inconsistent with counting the puzzle cases as art.

x is a work of art iff...

x resembles previous works of art
x is commonly recognized as art
x conforms to conventions or traditions of art

recognition conditions

x is pleasing
x is aesthetically pleasing
x is interesting
x is beautiful
x has unique aesthetic value
x has aesthetic value divorced from everyday life

normative conditions

x is made with extraordinary skill
x is made by thoughtful handling of materials
x is made with talent

skill conditions

x is original
x is creative

creativity conditions

x is a vehicle for self-expression
x expressed the artist's intent
x expresses a thought
x interprets life and human experience
x affects its audience in a certain way (e.g. evokes a feeling or thought)

communication conditions

x does not appear the same as non-art

discernibility condition