

AP[®] ART HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

Left slide: Meret Oppenheim, *Object*, 1936.

Right slide: Blank

7. This work is representative of which art historical movement? Explain how the work is representative of that movement. (5 minutes)

Background:

Meret Oppenheim's *Object (Le Déjeuner en fourrure)* is a key example of the incongruous disquieting objects the Surrealists delighted in creating and exhibiting. When *Object* was shown at the Surrealist exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1937, visitors selected it as the quintessential Surrealist symbol. The accidental catalyst for *Object* is thought to have been a café conversation between Oppenheim and Pablo Picasso. After seeing Oppenheim's fur-covered jewelry, Picasso allegedly remarked that one could cover just about anything with fur. Oppenheim replied, "Even this cup and saucer," and proceeded to do so.

Students have two tasks:

- (1) They must identify Surrealism as the art historical movement with which the work is associated.
- (2) They must explain how the work is representative of that movement.

The explanation of how the work is representative of the Surrealist movement may include:

- It embodies the notion of metamorphosis or alchemical transformation that makes ordinary things suddenly appear unfamiliar and disorienting as if experienced in a dream state.
- Oppenheim transforms an ordinary, functional cup, saucer, and spoon into an indeterminate fur-covered object that simultaneously attracts and repels the viewer.
- Psychically disquieting and erotically charged, this incongruous object is a bizarre assemblage of the domestic and the savage that defies all logic.
- Like other Surrealist works, *Object* seeks to express or liberate the unconscious and generate a dreamlike state of surreality.
- This disquieting anthropomorphic hybrid exemplifies the Surrealist penchant for transgressive humor, automatism, word play, and illogical juxtapositions.

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Question 7 (continued)

Scoring Criteria

Score Scale 0–4

4 Identifies the work as Surrealist and explains why it is representative of that movement with a high degree of specificity and no significant errors.

3 Identifies the work as Surrealist and explains why it is representative of that movement with a fair degree of specificity; the explanation may contain errors.

OR

Identifies the work as Dadaist and explains why it is representative of that movement with a high degree of specificity and no significant errors.

2 Identifies the work as Surrealist, but the explanation is weak, without focus, and contains significant errors.

OR

Identifies the work as Dadaist and explains why it is representative of that movement with a fair degree of specificity; the explanation may contain errors.

1 Identifies the work as Surrealist or Dadaist but makes no other points of merit.

OR

Fails to identify the work as Surrealist or Dadaist, but the explanation is otherwise a 2.

0 Makes an attempt, but the response is without merit because it restates the question or contains only incorrect or irrelevant statements.

— Indicates a nonresponse, such as a blank paper, crossed-out words, or personal notes.

7. This work is representative of which art historical movement? Explain how the work is representative of that movement. (5 minutes)

The fur covered teaset comes from the surrealist movement after Picasso commented, "you can cover anything with fur." The simultaneous representation of an ordinary human object with the unimaginable ~~textile~~ tactile material of fur illustrates a surreal combination of the beastial fauna ~~wild~~ wilderness and elegant human tradition. The use of fur challenges the mind because it represents an unrealistic scene that puzzles the mind in its dreamy absence of reality. Few can imagine the feeling of fur on the tongue and thus the audience experiences an organic and unusual feeling.

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7. This work is representative of which art historical movement? Explain how the work is representative of that movement. (5 minutes)

This work ~~represents~~ represents Surrealism. Surrealism is marked by unrealistic, and dreamlike scenes. ~~It assesses~~ It assesses the unconscious frame of mind. This work depicts ~~a common~~ seemingly common objects, ~~including~~ plate, cup, and spoon, however, the artist ~~has~~ paints them made out of fur. This makes it completely unrealistic. Never would anyone make these objects out of fur. Therefore this work is unrealistic and dreamlike.

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7. This work is representative of which art historical movement? Explain how the work is representative of that movement. (5 minutes)

~~This work is typical of the Arts and Crafts Movement. This movement stressed the production of things like lamps, small interior decorations, and architecture. This cup and saucer~~

This work is typical of the Dada movement. The cup and saucer is lined with fur which is crazy. The Dada movement professed to be against everything, World War I, social injustice, etc. Dada art intended to slap the viewer in the face and question reality and the present state. ~~Dada~~ This ~~work~~ is characteristic of Dada because it is strange, and means nothing, it is simply to cause the viewer to reflect on the absurdity of modern life and World War I.

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AP[®] ART HISTORY 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7

Overview

The intent of this question was to place Meret Oppenheim's *Fur Object* (1936) within the art historical movement of Surrealism and to explain how it represented that movement. Students were not asked to describe or to list the characteristics of Surrealism but to explain how this work specifically represented it. Surrealism is one of the most significant twentieth-century art historical movements, and Meret Oppenheim's sculpture one of the most significant objects of that movement. This is the only essay question on this exam located fully in the twentieth century, and it should remind students and teachers alike that the modern period is a significant part of the AP Art History curriculum that cannot be ignored or eliminated without serious consequences for students.

Sample: 7A Score: 4

This essay identifies the work as Surrealist with a high degree of specificity. It discusses the Surrealist ploy of juxtaposing disparate materials in order to challenge normative expectations. The fact that the work references the dream state with its sense of irrationality, another Surrealist tactic, is also mentioned.

Sample: 7B Score: 3

This essay identifies the work as Surrealist with a fair degree of specificity. The student cites a lack of realism and a "dreamlike" quality as the result of accessing the unconscious store of images. While it states that the work takes an ordinary tea set and transforms it with fur, the essay contains some errors.

Sample: 7C Score: 2

The work is identified as Dada with a fair degree of specificity. The essay discusses the rebellious nature of the Dada movement in the aftermath of World War I as a means of protesting social injustice and questioning the nature of reality.