

PHIL 3501 Philosophy of Art

TR11 Tues, Thurs 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: Saam Trivedi

Email: trivedi@brooklyn.cuny.edu

About a hundred years back, the Dadaist artist Marcel Duchamp took a urinal, installed it in an art exhibit, and called it “Fountain”. But is that ART?

More generally, what is art? Can we define art, and if so, how? Do artistic intentions matter to interpreting artworks? What is the relation between beauty in art and beauty in nature? How can we care for fictional characters given that we know they are not real? What role does music play in a culture? Why do many people seek out and enjoy horror films even though they arouse fear? Can there be pornographic art?

Using both classic and contemporary readings, this course will discuss philosophical issues such as the above that pertain to art.