

## Art and Intention

Which aspects of an artwork's provenance are central to our interpretation of that work? Are we right to assume, as we often do, that the artist's intention has a particularly important role to play in the interpretive process? Certainly, knowledge of the artist's intention often places us in a good position to understand what many artworks appear to mean (i.e. works where the artist aims to convey a specific meaning or point and succeeds in doing so). But is that always the case?

The central aim of this course is to examine the thesis that important aspects of both the production and reception of works of art can be understood within an intentionalist framework. To that end, ideas about the nature and functions of intentions and intentional action will be brought to bear on a range of topics in Aesthetics, including the nature of the (fine) arts; the nature of individual and collective authorship, the ontology of artworks; the interpretation, appreciation, and evaluation of works of art.

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