WORKS OF ARTS

- *The Bird’s Nest* by Zhang Hongtu
- *What is the Proper Way to Fly a Flag?* by Dread Scott
- *God Bless America* by Faith Ringgold
- *Rebellious Silence* by Shirin Neshat
- *The Problem We All Live with the Trail of Tears* by Christine Chzasz

VISUAL ARTS VOCABULARY

- Pyramid of Thinking
- Four Traditional Roles of an Artist
- Subject Matter
- Manifest Destiny
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ARTWORK – *The Bird’s Nest* by Zhang Hongtu


- Zhang Hongtu's painting Bird's Nest in the Style of Cubism was seized by Chinese customs in July 2008. There were three reasons from the Customs which stopped this painting into China:
  
  1. The colors of the painting are too dull;
  2. The image of the Bird's Nest is no good;
  3. The words on the painting are not acceptable.

SOURCE: [http://www.hrichina.org/en/content/901](http://www.hrichina.org/en/content/901)

- In addition to its physical seizure by Chinese officials, "Bird's Nest" was also banned from a Chinese magazine. Vogue China, the Chinese edition of the fashion magazine, had planned to reprint the painting to accompany an article about Zhang in its August issue. The editor later informed Zhang that the article was killed by China Pictorial, a state-owned journal which has editorial oversight. "The reason your painting could not be reprinted is that it has political overtone, particularly during the Olympics," the editor wrote in an email to Zhang.
Art as We Perceive and Understand It

- Appreciating art is never just a question of accepting visual stimuli, but also involves intelligently contemplating why and how works of art come to be made and have meaning.

The World As We Perceive It

- Different cultures understand and value the same structure differently.
- Everyone is creative.
- An artist is a critical thinker.
- Critical thinkers question, rethink the process, and explore new possibilities.
- Hidden message = tolerance

ARTWORK – What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag? by Dread Scott

- ARTICLE SOURCE: See more at: http://www.dreadscott.net/artwork/photography/what-is-the-proper-way-to-display-a-us-flag#sthash.hqYd8GqO.dpuf

- Video (4 minutes): https://www.ted.com/talks/dread_scott_how_art_can_shape_america_s_conversation_about_freedom?language=en

- In 1989, while on display at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, What is the Proper Way…? became the center of national controversy over its use of the American flag. President Bush Sr. declared What is the Proper Way… “disgraceful” and the entire US Congress denounced this work as they passed legislation to “protect the flag.”

- Senator Dole specifically noted that the law would apply to “the so-called ‘artist’ who has invited the trampling on the flag.”

- As part of the popular effort to oppose moves to make patriotism compulsory, I, along with three others, burned flags on the steps of the US Capitol. This resulted in a Supreme Court case and landmark decision.

ARTWORK – God Bless America by Faith Ringgold

- VIDEO: (3.30 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Comf9SetjRA
- SOURCE: https://www.faithringgold.com/
- God Bless America relates to the universal truths of the political and social issues that African-Americans have endured during that time period which personally she felt compelled to address. The painting itself was painted during the Civil
Rights movement in 1964 where white prejudice against African American was enforced by the legal system. The painting represents the imprisonment of the American flag. The star on the flag symbolizes a sheriff's badge and the stripes on the flag symbolizes the bars of a jail cell. The white woman is portrayed as a racist who is denying blacks the right to vote. The woman herself is a prisoner of her own bigotry.

**ARTWORK – We All Live with the Trail of Tears** by Christine Chzasz

- **TRAIL OF TEARS**
  - “In 1838 and 1839, as part of Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy, the Cherokee nation was forced to give up its lands east of the Mississippi River and to migrate to an area in present-day Oklahoma. The Cherokee people called this journey the "Trail of Tears," because of its devastating effects. The migrants faced hunger, disease, and exhaustion on the forced march. Over 4,000 out of 15,000 of the Cherokees died.” [https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html)
  - Key word: Manifest Destiny
  - Video (2.50 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SosZ2ZRJymU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SosZ2ZRJymU)
  - Video (3.40 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E4f_oekpzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E4f_oekpzI)
  - It displays the long walk taken by Native Americans from the southern states to Oklahoma.
  - The government soldier is represented as a ghost that hunts the Native American people, traditions and culture.

**ARTWORK – Rebellious Silence** by Shirin Neshat

- **SOURCE:** [https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/global-contemporary/a/neshat-rebellious](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/global-contemporary/a/neshat-rebellious)
- “One of the most visible signs of cultural change in Iran has been the requirement for all women to wear the veil in public. While many Muslim women find this practice empowering and affirmative of their religious identities, the veil has been coded in Western eyes as a sign of Islam’s oppression of women. This opposition is made clearer, perhaps, when one considers the simultaneity of the Islamic Revolution with women’s liberation movements in the U.S. and Europe, both developing throughout the 1970s.”
  - The artist and poet express the strength of Muslim women.
  - Women are equal to men.
  - The chador represents power.
• The image represents the solidarity of Muslim men and women from Iran, in their belief of the rejection of Western dress
• The image is open to interpretation, and misunderstanding.
• **Calligraphy** = the fine art of handwriting

VIDEO (8 minutes): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXZkn0nL34Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXZkn0nL34Y)
VIDEO (6 minutes): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKXOMPOAJXk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKXOMPOAJXk)
VIDEO (4 minutes): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ckfm1HruBh0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ckfm1HruBh0)