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### A Different Way of Understanding

The article “Art is a Different Kind of Cosmic Order,” written by Brian Greene, a theoretical physicist, suggests that art allows us to find truths through an abstract way. The article starts off with the author’s mesmerization by the repetition in patterns and how they can be experienced through many sounds, shapes, and/or forms, most importantly through art. He argues that there is no scientific reason to explain the benefit to a species by creating art, yet admits its significance in the daily life of being human. Describing how scientists work to understand the objective rules behind the world, he then goes on to say that artists strive to do something similar by seeking the truth in things that cannot be explained by natural laws, but instead embrace the ambiguity of how art connects us as a whole. Greene claims that art is a method of understanding our experiences being human, as can be seen in the artworks of Louise Bourgeois as she deals with her complex attitude with her feelings about those around her.



Fig. 1. Bourgeois, Louise. *Spider (Cell)*. 1997. Moma,

<https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/42/684>

To start off, Louise Bourgeois' multimedia sculpture *Spider* (Fig. 1) , a sculpture of a spider that is part of her *Cell* series, displays her relationship to her mother in a way that showcases the complexity of her feeling and encourages the audience to experience and feel. The viewer is meant to enter the structure and “sit in the chair and be underneath the protection of the mother”. Bourgeois uses the texture of the metal cage in reference to a spider's web. She allows the viewer to see what is around but still feel safe and preserved inside. The legs of the spider only enhance this feeling as it is reminiscent of an embrace or protective shield. The contrast between the metal of the cage and the softness of the tapestries draws attention to the conflicting coldness and comfort of a mother's love. The dark colors of the spider and cage portray a stillness that keeps the bright tapestries undisturbed. This is in reference to the fear of change, leaving, and longing that comes with thinking about motherhood. The amount of feeling and different aspects of one theme that are communicated can only happen through art. The artist

utilizes the unique components of art as a communication medium to help the audience understand the truth in her life.



Fig. 2. Bourgeois, Louise. *The Welcoming Hands*. (1996). Wiki art,

[https://www.eutouring.com/images\\_paris\\_statues\\_959.html](https://www.eutouring.com/images_paris_statues_959.html)

Bourgeois series of casts *The Welcoming Hands* (Fig. 2), explain her feelings about her fear of abandonment by her father and her mother's death. The welcoming hand is a set of 5 casts of bronze on granite rocks. The first of the casts is that of a child, all alone. The rest of the casts have hand numbers that vary from three to four. This is to represent the two hands of a couple, a topic Bourgeois was passionate about due to her father's unfaithfulness with her mother. The hands are angled towards each other to represent how engrossed they are with each other, completely oblivious to the child longing for love. The sculpture medium is used as it is long lasting and significant in that the couples will be forced to hold hands and comfort each other forever, for better or for worse. This also means that the child will also be alone forever, never to grow up and always seeing love from a distance. Because the artist is able to successfully utilize the casting medium to awaken feelings rather than words through symbols of hand positions that

each showcase emotions a little differently, it shows that art is a human connection. It supports that art is a human instinct to create and share.



Fig. 3. Bourgeois, Louise. *Quarantania*. (1981). MoMA,

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/81955>

Bourgeois' *Quarantania* (Fig. 3) utilizes the depiction of objects to explore the feelings of group relationships. Influenced by the time when she had Paris in order to come to the United States, this is often attributed to her interpretation of goodbyes. The main focal point is the center figure, as it is placed in the center to be surrounded by the other sculptures and it is also a bit shorter than the rest. The contrast between the white and black bag likely represents contrasting feelings between loving your homeland and looking forward to the new opportunity. Bourgeois' use of space by keeping the figure so close portrays a sense of closeness between the people. One last embrace before the uncertainty of if there will be a time when they will see each other again. The circles of the outlying figures look like eyes focused on the middle person, while the middle

person has a line of sight focused on that in front of it. Therefore, it is only the person leaving that can truly see what this new opportunity may bring and the responsibility it shares, while those around it can only see the leaving of a friend.

In the end, Louise Bourgeois is able to convey complex ideas through the different art mediums she uses: multimedia projects to showcase complexity, cast molds for a sense of realism, and wooden sculptures for simplicity. Even so, each of these mediums are able to effectively show the audience her feelings and intentions when making the piece of artwork. Thus, as Brian Greene claims, the meaning of art is to communicate truth and understanding for yourself and others by using the techniques and feelings only art can bring.

Works Cited

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	4	3	2	1
<b>Introduction</b>	Summary thoroughly encapsulates the article's primary claim and supporting details. Thesis clearly and precisely states why the artist further illustrates and/or challenges the article's primary claim.	Summary reflects a clear understanding of the article's primary claim but could be more thorough in connecting the author's supporting points. Thesis is clear but could more precisely relate the artist's work to the article's primary claim.	Summary reflects some understanding of the article's primary claim but omits some significant supporting points or includes irrelevant information. Thesis is somewhat clear but lacks precision about how the artist's work relates to the article's primary claim.	Summary is missing significant details or lacks a clear understanding of the article's primary claim and supporting points. Thesis is unclear or vague, making it difficult to understand how the writer is relating an artist's work to the article's primary claim.

<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p>Body paragraphs thoroughly support the thesis through insightful analysis, moving from an interpretation of the overall meaning of each artwork to specific examination of visual artistic techniques, themes, and/or symbolism.</p>	<p>Body paragraphs develop the thesis through some insightful analysis. Some interpretations of the overall meaning of 1-2 artworks could be stronger or better supported through more specific examination of visual artistic techniques, themes, and/or symbolism.</p>	<p>Body paragraphs provide a basic level of analysis but generally need a stronger level of interpretation and more specific examinations of visual artistic techniques, themes, and/or symbolism.</p>	<p>Body paragraphs lack development: analysis is thin due to underdeveloped or missing interpretations of each artwork; or, the writer doesn't examine visual artistic techniques, themes, and/or symbolism.</p>
<p><b>Coherence + Closure</b></p>	<p>Writer uses appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts. The concluding paragraph articulates an insightful connection between the opinion article and a pattern of meaning derived from the analysis, leaving the reader with a compelling sense of why the writer thinks art matters in the context of the discussion.</p>	<p>Writer mostly uses appropriate transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, although there may be occasional lapses in variety or effectiveness. The concluding paragraph articulates a connection between the opinion article and a pattern of meaning derived from the analysis, leaving the reader with a sense of why the writer thinks art matters in the context of the discussion (although it could be more insightful).</p>	<p>The writer uses transitions and syntax to some extent, but there are significant gaps in their use, leading to issues with cohesion and clarity in the text. The concluding paragraph attempts to establish a connection between the opinion article and a pattern of meaning derived from the analysis but falls somewhat short in clarity or insight, leaving the reader with some questions or uncertainties.</p>	<p>The writer does not effectively utilize transitions and syntax to connect sections of the text, resulting in a lack of cohesion and poor clarity regarding the relationships between ideas and concepts. The concluding paragraph fails to articulate a meaningful connection between the opinion article and a pattern of meaning derived from the analysis, leaving the reader without a clear understanding of why the writer believes art matters in the context of the discussion.</p>
<p><b>MLA Format + Citation</b></p>	<p><u>MLA format, Works Cited page, and in-text citation</u> are all perfect by MLA standards.  The analysis of each of 3 required artworks is</p>	<p><u>MLA format, Works Cited page, and/or in-text citation</u> are close to meeting MLA standards but have some inaccuracies*.</p>	<p><u>MLA format, Works Cited page, and/or in-text citation</u> are not yet close to meeting MLA standards*.  *Including MLA formatting of 3</p>	<p><u>MLA format, Works Cited page, and in-text citation</u> are missing.*  *Note: failure to cite sources or honestly explain use of AI in the writing of this</p>

	<p>accompanied by a clear, high-quality image. Each image is formatted as an <u>“illustration,” which includes a label, a number, a caption and/or source information.</u></p> <p>Use of AI: Include a note at the very end of the essay explaining how you used ChatGPT or any other AI tools to develop this essay. If you decide to cite ChatGPT as a source, you must follow these <u>MLA guidelines for citing generative AI.</u></p>	<p>*Including MLA formatting of 3 required artwork images and / or citations of AI sources and use.</p>	<p>required artwork images and / or citations of AI sources and use.</p>	<p>essay are violations of District's Cheating and Plagiarism Policies and will trigger its intervention protocol.</p>
<p><b>Mechanics</b></p>	<p>Writing is polished, free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.</p>	<p>Writing contains some spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. However, these errors do not impact the reader's understanding.</p>	<p>Writing contains numerous spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. These errors impact the reader's understanding.</p>	<p>Frequent errors accumulate, impairing the reader's ability to understand the essay.</p>