

PHILOSOPHY 330

Fall 2020

5th Essay Assignment

Due Monday, December 7

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 330 #5.

Write a 4-5 page essay on one of the following topics:

Art and the Political

According to Walter Benjamin, how has the advancement of technological reproducibility changed the nature of art? What did he mean by the 'aura' of the work of art, and is he right when he suggests that the aura of the work of art is diminished or lost in the age of technological reproducibility? Why does Benjamin think that this development leads to a politicization of art? How does Benjamin's view contrast with the view about art put forth by Clement Greenberg? Why did Greenberg suggest that art should not be political, and why did he thus suggest that "the best of contemporary plastic art is abstract? Who would you agree with more in this debate about art?

Jean-Michel Basquiat and Postmodern Art

How do the paintings of Jean-Michel Basquiat bring out some of the features of postmodern art and yet at the same time be understood through previous theories of modern art? After watching the documentary *The Radiant Child* what do you think of Basquiat's paintings?

Shingo Honda and Impermanence

Go see the exhibition titled "Impermanence" by noted Big Island artist Shingo Honda at the East Hawaii Cultural Center and write a response to your experience in seeing this work. How might his work be understood through some of the views about art which we have considered in this course? (The show closes on Friday, November 27)