

*The Arts*



## Knowledge Questions:

- Are the arts a system of knowledge?
- If artworks are a product of the imagination of the artist, then how do they contribute to a system of knowledge?
- What is the relationship of the artist to the artwork?
- Is the aesthetic value of an artwork purely a subjective matter?
- What is the importance of form in art?
- Does art enlarge what is possible to think?
- Is it possible that aesthetic value is something universal—a fact about human beings?

## AOK: *The Arts*

### Possible Topics for Study:

- Art as a vehicle for social critique
- Artwork used to affect the beliefs of individuals and groups: advertising, film, literature, etc.
- Art forms that are strongly rooted in a particular culture or tradition
- Art and morality



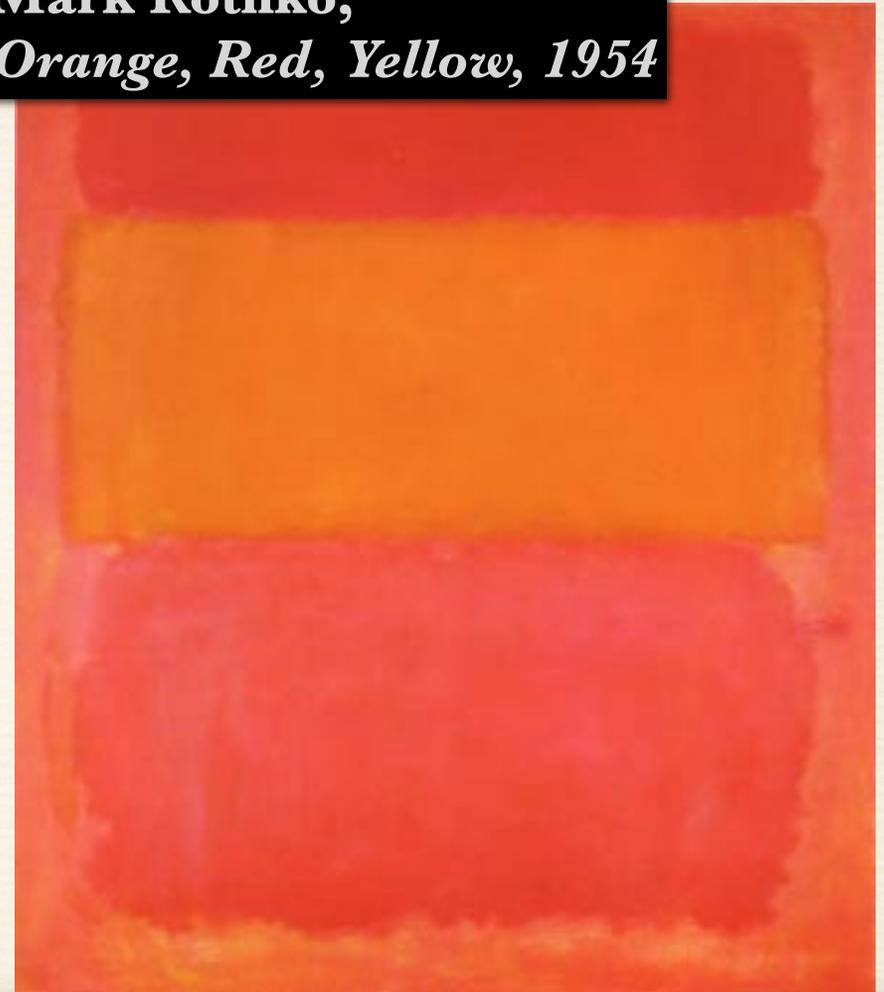
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**Rembrandt,**  
*Man with Arms Akimbo, 1658*



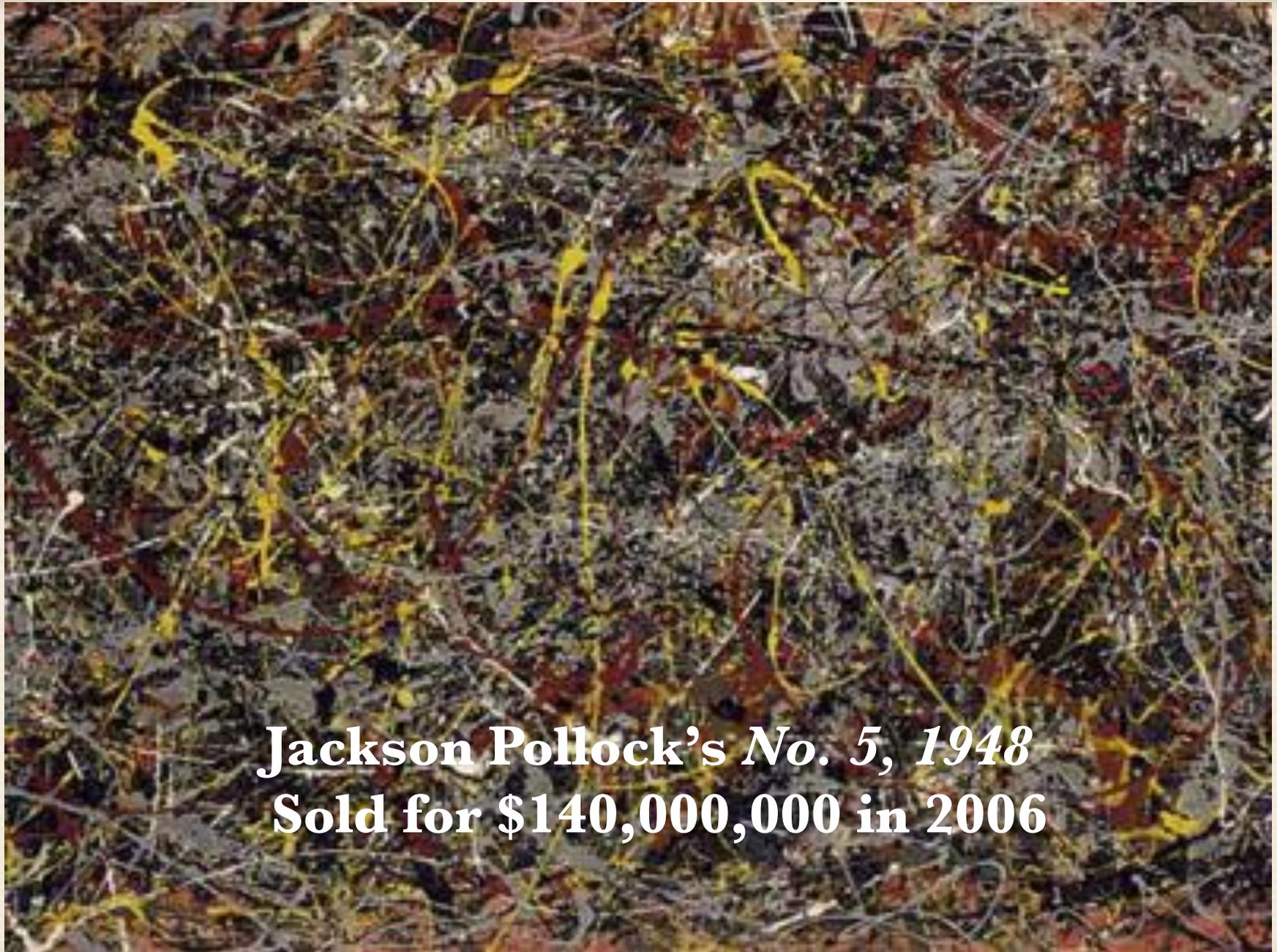
**Sold for \$33,000,000 in 2009**

**Mark Rothko,**  
*Orange, Red, Yellow, 1954*



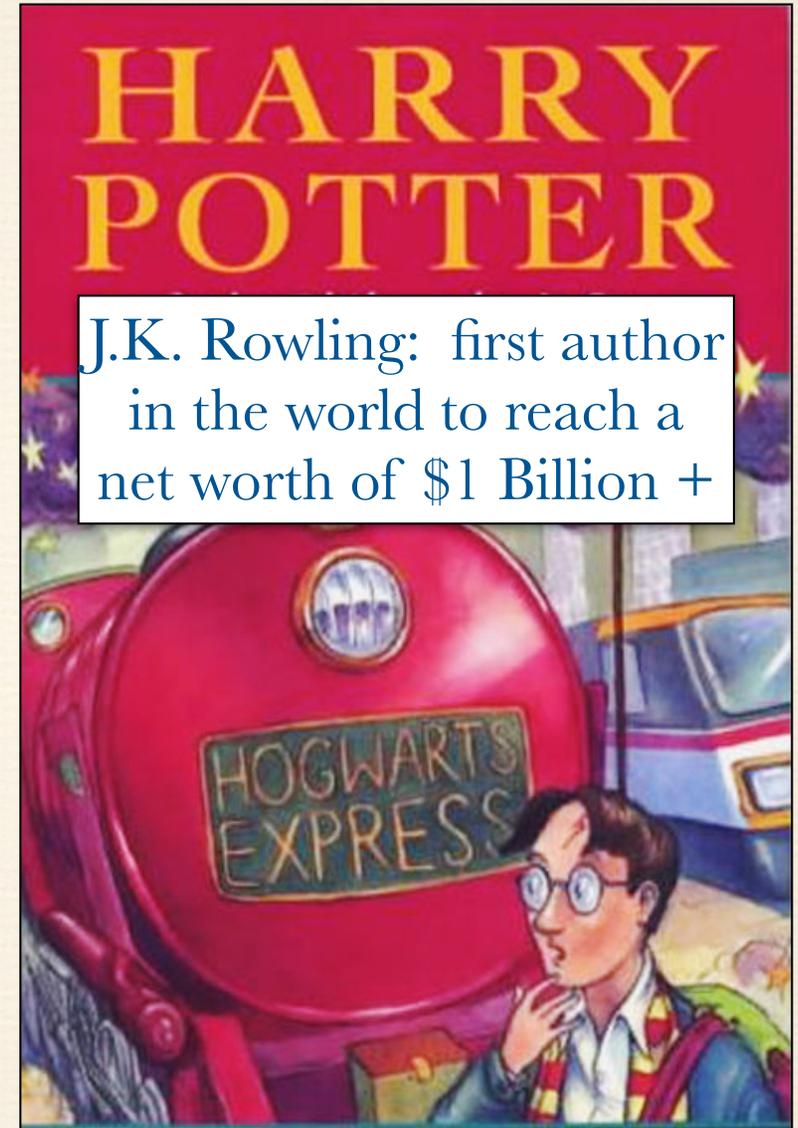
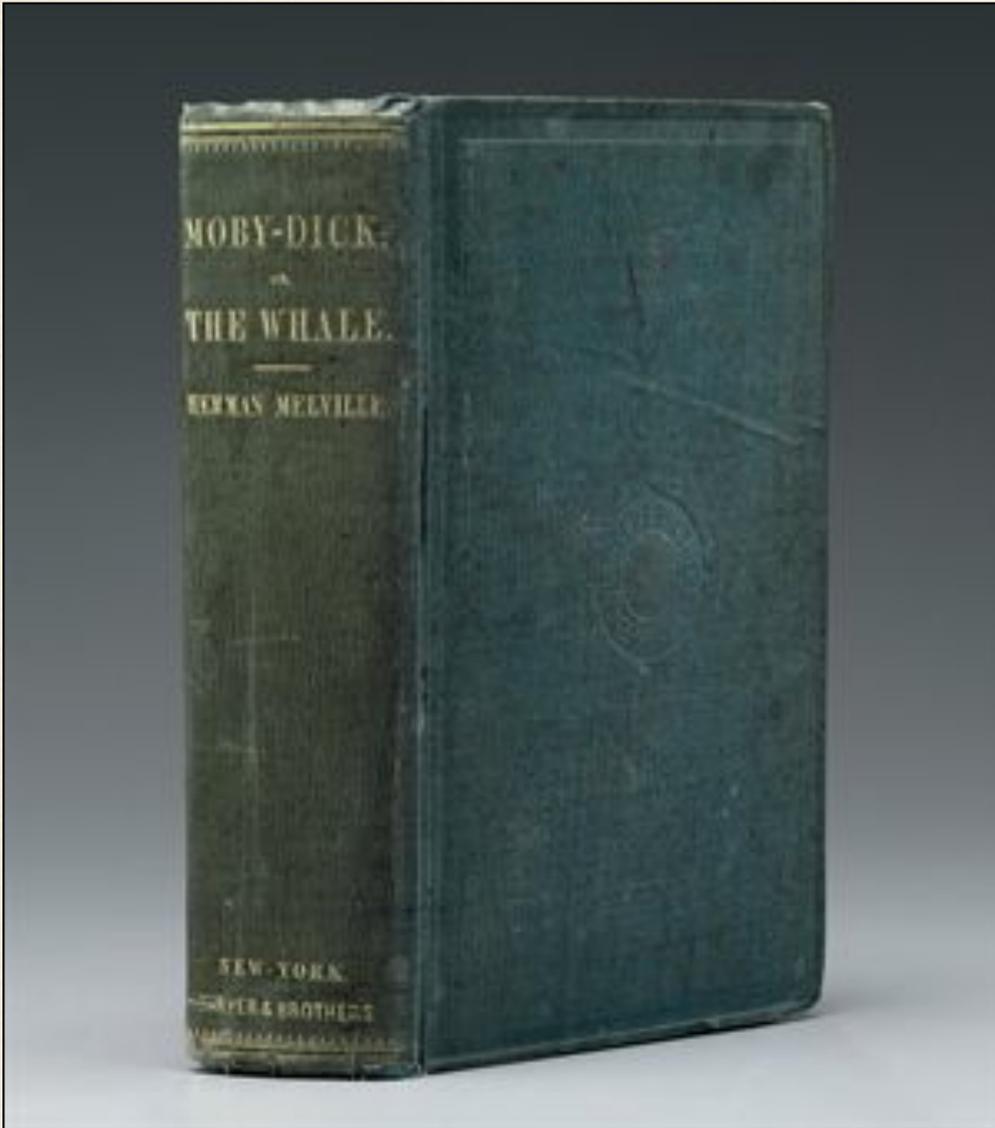
**Sold for \$87,000,000  
in 2012**

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**Jackson Pollock's *No. 5, 1948*  
Sold for \$140,000,000 in 2006**

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J.K. Rowling: first author in the world to reach a net worth of \$1 Billion +

Melville earned \$1,259.45 in his lifetime for *Moby Dick*...

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Joshua Bell, World Class Violinist

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### Knowledge Claims:

- A work of art demonstrates skill
- A work of art imitates or copies nature
- A work of art evokes emotion
- A work of art contains truth

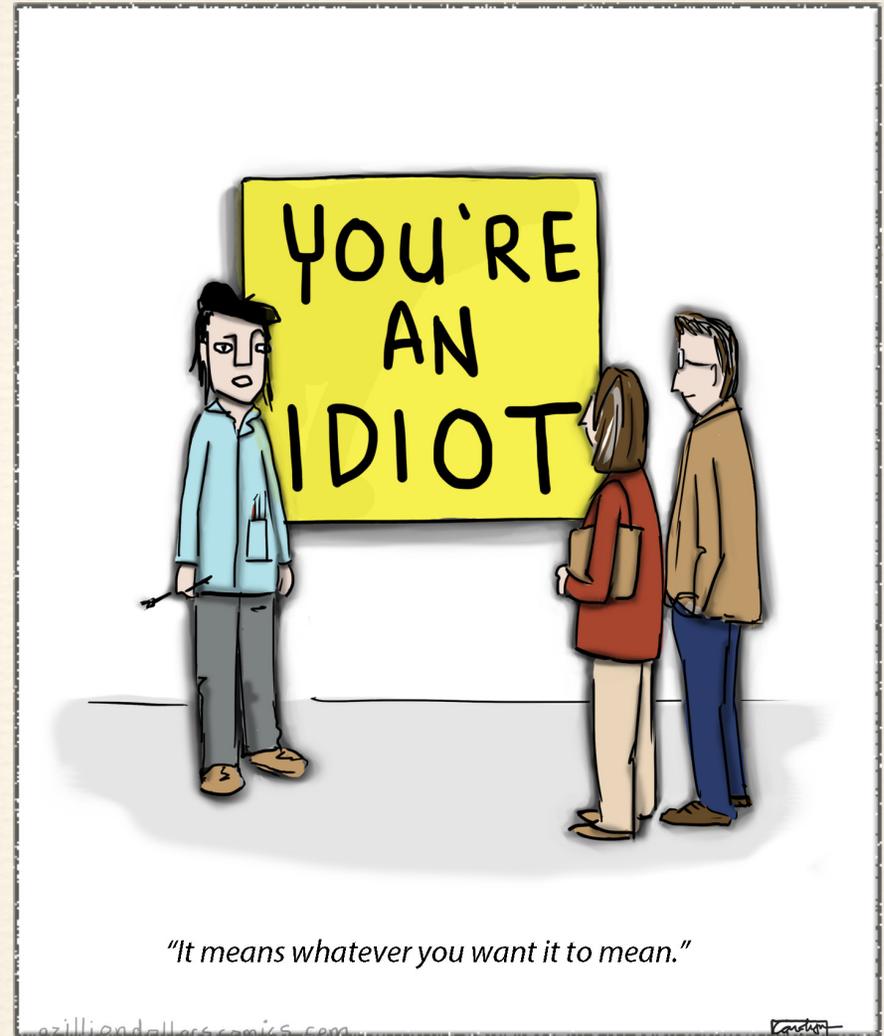


## AOK: *The Arts*

1. How does the social function of the arts compare with other AOKs?
2. What criteria should we use to make judgments about the artistic quality of the performing arts, literary arts, and visual arts?
3. Can we only make sense of art if we know the context in which it is created? Is there such a thing as “art by accident”?
4. If art can communicate in a way that language cannot, is it more important to experience the arts than to talk about them?
5. What impact is technology having and will have on the arts in the future?
6. In order to make a contribution to the arts, does an individual need to work within an established convention, or challenge an existing convention?

# The Arts: Activities

- ❖ Who decides what is beautiful?  
In groups, find objects you think are beautiful; what qualities do they have? What qualities keep coming up? Would an “expert” agree? Can you define beauty? (Yes, you can.)
- ❖ Esther Honig (next slide)
- ❖ Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Preface
- ❖ Chris Jordan’s TED Talk





- ❖ Is beauty subjective?  
Consider cultural standards.
- ❖ What is the golden ratio?
- ❖ What is Wabi-sabi?

