

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- ✔ understand the vocabulary of different art periods and art styles;
- ✔ have a better understanding of art history and the function of artists;
- ✔ learn the vocabulary about Chinese calligraphy;
- ✔ understand the spirit of Chinese art;
- ✔ write a social media post related to art.

Unit

1

Art and Artist

Lead-In



Task 1 Exploring the Theme

Watch a short video clip and fill in the blanks. Philip Tinari, the director of UCCA Center for Contemporary Art located in 798 Art Zone in Beijing, is talking about the exhibition which marked the center's reopening after its long closure due to the pandemic.

We always hope to give the 1) _____ something to think about, and at this time, especially coming out of the pandemic, it's a situation that made a lot of us 2) _____ on our lives, on what's dear to us, on what's important. This exhibition is trying to 3) _____ that. We want to 4) _____ with people's personal experience but also lead them to think some of the bigger questions.

Going through this pandemic really made us realize how important art is. Being without art for 4 months now, rarely having any exhibition to see, stuck at home, or just staying in this state of pressure and tension. It really made us realize how important it is to have a chance to engage with art. And it's really like a way to 5) _____ the soul and spirit.

Task 2 Brainstorming

Answer the following questions. Discuss with your classmates and share your answers with the class.

- 1) How could artists be of help to society?
- 2) Did the artist's role vary in different time periods?

Task 3 Building Vocabulary

Talk with your classmates, and try to describe the following words and phrases in English.

shed light on

medium

revolutionary

rhythm

brush

The Changing Role of an Artist Throughout History



1 It is clear that artists have many different roles, but no matter what medium they use or style they explore, they all share the same purpose: to create art.

2 The very basic idea is that artists reflect themselves and their surroundings. This could be **factual** and realistic or **surreal**, **symbolic** and expressive. From the days when cave walls were **daubed** with rich mud to show animals and **primitive** people, artists have used their medium to show things to others. You could say that the role of the artists is in part to describe life, and to **shed light on** aspects that may otherwise be missed.

Anonymous Artisans

3 In the ancient world, the classical artist was actually a labourer. Painters, sculptors and craftsmen were labelled as artisans. They would take over the trade from their father. That is to say, art professions were not a choice but an **inheritance**. Artisans practised technical excellence, but there was no formal training, and their artistic expressions were not encouraged.

4 In the Middle Ages, artists would learn their skills through

factual *adj.* 真实的

surreal *adj.* 超现实的；
离奇的；怪诞的

symbolic *adj.* 有象征意义的

daub *v.* (用颜料、油漆、
灰泥等) 涂抹；乱涂；乱画

primitive *adj.* 原始的；
远古的

shed light on 阐明；
使……清楚地显出

anonymous *adj.* 没有
特色的；匿名的

inheritance *n.* 传承；
沿袭物

apprenticeship *n.* 学徒制

indulgence *n.* 沉溺；放纵

luxury *n.* 奢华；奢侈的享受

philosopher *n.* 哲学家

mathematician *n.* 数学家

regard *n.* 尊重；敬佩

intellectual *n.* 知识分子；脑力劳动者

revered *adj.* 受尊崇的

astrological *adj.* 占星术的

societal *adj.* 社会的

revolutionary *adj.* 彻底变革的

individuality *n.* 个性；个人特征

let go of 释放；放开

the **apprenticeship** system. They were still considered to be craftsmen rather than artists, and most art was anonymous. But during this time, the art profession advanced the most. In Medieval Europe, master craftsmen were recognized as honourable and responsible members of society.

Recognized Renaissance

5 The Renaissance was the time when artists were recognized for their works. It signified the end to anonymous work.

6 During this time, art was seen as an **indulgence** and a **luxury**. Poets, **philosophers**, scholars and **mathematicians** were held in high **regard**. They were seen as **intellectuals** and were much cleverer than artists. Artists were anxious to be given the same level of respect as these **revered** members of society. So they started to include more complex themes within their works, adding details that would not be recognized by the untrained or untutored eye. Platonic¹ ideals, scientific theories and **astrological** details started to occur in Renaissance artwork, changing the role of the artist significantly and paving the way for art as it is seen today, as a way of expression on an emotional, intellectual and even political level.

Political and Societal Change Through Revolutionary Art

7 When art was made by people who were considered to be artisans, it was very much seen as a job with no room for expression or **individuality**. Artisans experienced little freedom, and the role was controlled by those in power. When the Renaissance introduced the idea of using art as an expression of independent thought, the first seed of revolutionary art was shown.

8 Throughout time, artists have realized that art can play a significant role in shaping history. They have **let go of** the

1 柏拉图式的。

idea of descriptive art and found a more profound meaning. Revolutionary artists have seen the potential in using art as a form of social progress.

9 Revolutionary artists such as Diego Rivera¹ and Kathe Kollwitz² used their works to **literally illustrate** revolutionary **dogma**. Artists such as Goya³, Daumier⁴ and Munch⁵ simply **portrayed** society in such **bleak** and **disturbing** conditions that they made people think about social change. Other artists have been considered revolutionary for their abilities to think outside the box and try new, brave techniques and expressive styles. Their works are not necessarily political or offering social **commentary**, but they do offer an insight into the times. Artists in this category include Matisse⁶, Manet⁷, Picasso⁸ and Cézanne⁹.

The Modern-day Role of an Artist

10 The modern artist can take on any of those roles, or perhaps even a combination of them all. Many artists produce aesthetic **commissions** based on the orders of those who pay them. They may also use art to express their own political or emotional **landscapes**. It is common nowadays for artists to have a number of roles to **fulfil** different aspects of their lives.

literally *adv.* (强调事实可能令人惊讶)真正地; 确实地

illustrate *v.* 表明……真实; 显示……存在

dogma *n.* 教义; 信条

portray *v.* 描绘; 描写

bleak *adj.* 暗淡的; 无望的

disturbing *adj.* 令人不安的; 引起烦恼的

commentary *n.* 评论; 批评

commission *n.* (请某人作一幅画等的)正式委托

landscape *n.* 形势; 局面; 景观

fulfil *v.* 实现

- 1 迭戈·里维拉(1886—1957), 墨西哥著名画家。20世纪最负盛名的壁画家之一, 被誉为墨西哥壁画之父, 墨西哥的国宝级人物, 与大卫·西盖罗斯、奥罗兹柯并称为墨西哥壁画三杰。
- 2 凯绥·珂勒惠支, 原名凯绥·勛密特(1867—1945), 女, 德国表现主义版画家和雕塑家。20世纪前半叶德国左派艺术家代表人物之一。
- 3 弗朗西斯科·何塞·德·戈雅-卢西恩特斯(1746—1828), 出生于西班牙萨拉戈萨, 西班牙浪漫主义画派画家。
- 4 杜米埃(1809—1879), 法国画家。
- 5 爱德华·蒙克(1863—1944), 挪威表现主义画家、版画复制匠, 现代表现主义绘画的先驱。
- 6 马蒂斯(1869—1954), 法国画家、雕刻家和版画家。
- 7 爱德华·马奈(1832—1883), 法国巴黎写实派与印象派画家。
- 8 毕加索(1881—1973), 现代艺术的创始人, 西方现代派绘画的主要代表, 是20世纪最伟大的艺术天才之一。
- 9 保罗·塞尚(1839—1906), 法国著名画家, 后期印象画派的代表人物, 是印象派到立体主义派之间的重要画家。

therapy *n.* 治疗; 疗法

release *n.* 释放

catalyst *n.* 催化剂

soothe *v.* 抚慰

absolute *adj.* 绝对的;
十足的

volatile *adj.* 变化无常的

inspiration *n.* 灵感

adapt *v.* 适应

frenetic *adj.* 狂乱的

Art to make money, art to gain recognition, art to make a statement, art as a form of **therapy**, art as an emotional **release**.

11 Art can be an escape from reality, used as a record of the times, or be something we all can relate to. It can be a **catalyst** for change. It can feed our culture, reflect nature, **soothe** the soul. It can be an **absolute** indulgence and a luxury. It can be anything you want it to be. The role of an artist is as **volatile** as the artists' **inspiration** and ideas. It changes constantly, evolving as the years go by and **adapting** with the same **frenetic** pace as society.

(747 words)

(From ART WEB website.)



Part I Understanding the Text

Task 1 Global Understanding

1. Read the text, and identify the main ideas.

1) What is the purpose shared by all artists throughout history?

2) Did artists have high social status in the ancient world?

3) When did artists begin to use art to express independent thought?

4) Were artists related to political and societal change?

2. Read the text and decide whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

() 1) The primitive people who painted cows on the cave walls could be seen as prehistoric artists.

() 2) Artists help reveal the world. Without art, people may fail to see or experience a lot of beautiful things.

() 3) In Medieval Europe, master craftsmen were recognized for their expressive works.

() 4) During the Renaissance period, artists were respected by the society.

() 5) Renaissance artists added details to their works to make them easy to be understood.

Task 2 Detailed Understanding

1. Read the text again and choose the best answer to each question below.

- 1) Which of the following is NOT the way to become an artist in the ancient world and in the Middle Ages?
 - A. Learn from one's father if he is an artist.
 - B. Through the apprenticeship system.
 - C. Work for an artist to learn the skills.
 - D. Go to the art school.

- 2) What did artists of the Renaissance period do to change their roles?
 - A. They were recognized for their works.
 - B. They made art an indulgence and a luxury.
 - C. They held poets, philosophers, scholars and mathematicians in high regard.
 - D. They added complex themes to their works.

- 3) Modern-day artists _____.
 - A. produce works for those who pay them
 - B. use art to express their emotion
 - C. use art to express their political level
 - D. do all above

2. Answer the following questions according to the text.

- 1) How did the artists use art to bring political and social change?

- 2) In modern days, artists can take on many roles. Can you name some of them?

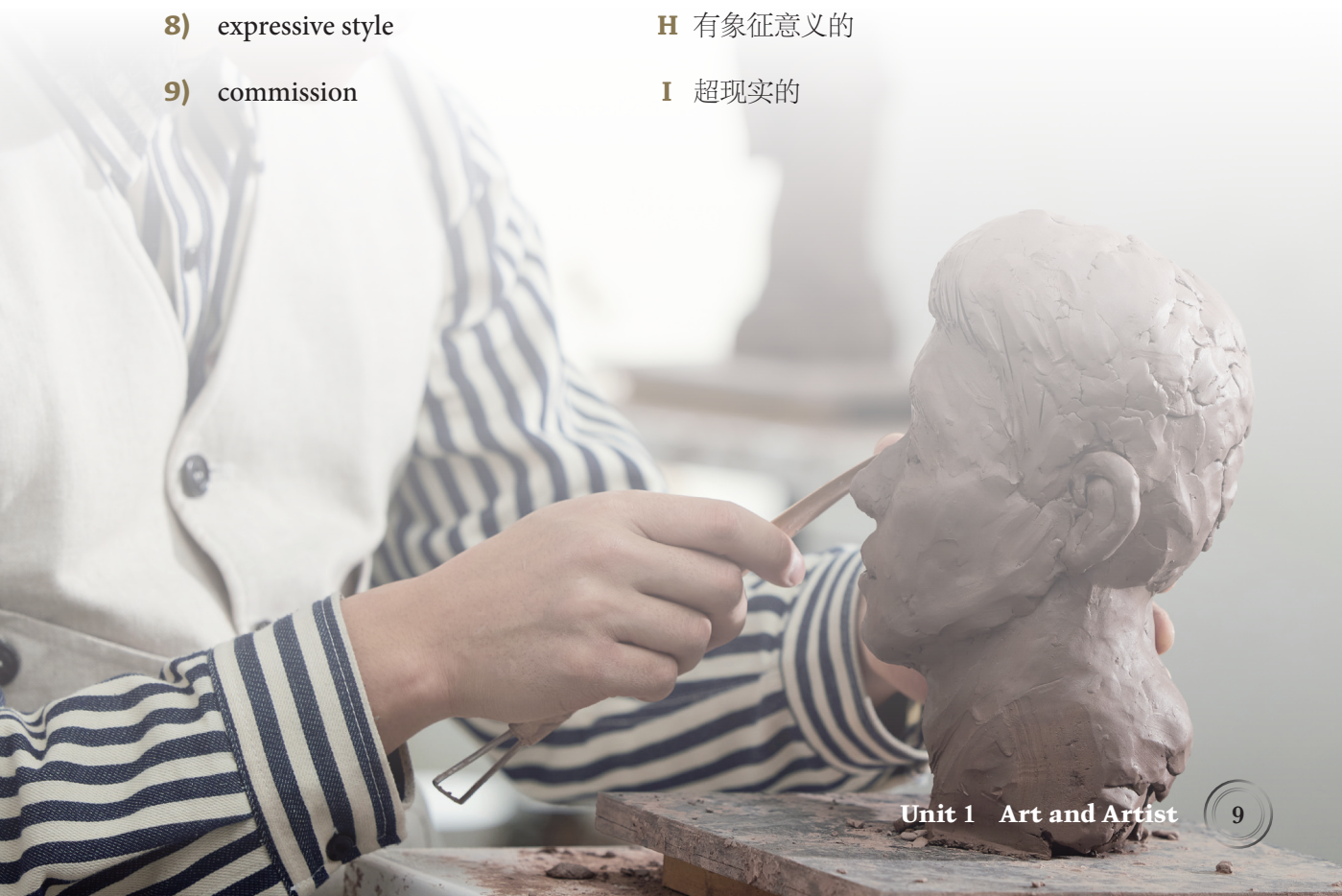
- 3) What would be your role as a future artist? Discuss with your partner.

Part II Building Language

Task 1 Key Terms

The words or phrases on the left are related to art. Match each of them with its appropriate Chinese meaning on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1) surreal | A 雕塑家 |
| 2) classical | B 灵感 |
| 3) sculptor | C 委托 |
| 4) symbolic | D 表现风格, 表现形态 |
| 5) artistic expression | E 个性 |
| 6) inspiration | F 古典的 |
| 7) individuality | G 艺术表现 |
| 8) expressive style | H 有象征意义的 |
| 9) commission | I 超现实的 |



Task 2 Vocabulary

Choose the correct word from the box below to complete each of the following sentences. Change the form where necessary.

adapt	constantly	escape	fulfil	label
pave	recognize	regard	release	significant

- 1) The movie was _____ from the book of the same title.
- 2) It is unfair to _____ a small baby as naughty.
- 3) The army _____ him as an outstandingly able engineer.
- 4) I've always held my father in high _____ for his hard work to provide for us.
- 5) The vice president of external affairs for the California Hospital Association, said that COVID-19 is currently a more _____ concern in some communities than others.
- 6) Exercise triggers the _____ of chemicals in the brain that make you feel better.
- 7) The discovery _____ the way for the development of effective new treatments.
- 8) Language is _____ and gradually evolving.
- 9) She hasn't yet _____ the requirements needed to graduate.
- 10) She managed to avoid serious injury, but it was a narrow _____.

Task 3 Grammar and Structure

Complete the following sentences by translating the Chinese given in brackets into English. You should use participle clause in every sentence. Participle clauses enable us to give information in a more economical way. Please note that participle clauses are used when the participle and the verb in the main clause have the same subject.

For example:

Platonic ideals, scientific theories and astrological details started to occur in Renaissance artwork, changing the role of the artist significantly and paving the way for