

Advanced One - Unit Five - Summary

There were some noise and excitement around the art gallery in London this year. There were items and installations which were upon typical visual art. For example, there was an installation which was named "Lights on and off." As its name, in which, the lights went on and off followed by a necklace breaking, which was part of the installation.

The number of complicated visual installation in the art gallery of London is increasing rapidly. The point is to answer three essential questions. What is an installation? Why can it be seen everywhere? And why is it so irritating?

The answer to the 1st question: Installation art is an artistic genre of three-dimensional works that are often site-specific and designed to transform a space's perception. This term is used to describe large-scale, mixed-media constructions, usually designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time.

There is a problem with the meaning of the installation, which is not complete. The installation often occupies an entire room or gallery space that the spectator has to walk through to engage fully with the work of art. Some installations, however, are designed to be moved and reinstalled in other places. The problem is that available definitions of the installation in the references do not contain the whole aspect of its meaning.

The second question. Why are installations everywhere?! This branch of art has been since 1917; an artist started this branch by putting a toilet in the gallery and called it art! But the main question, which is not answered yet, why the number of these artists increased suddenly?

Hal Foster, the American critic, declares that the main revolution in western art occurred in 1960 when the artists changed their styles from vertical to horizontal, which was not limited to a defined canvas despite the previous ones.

And the last question which is why the installations are so irritating?! The answer to this question is not so clear, but it can be interpreted that combining this branch with many arts and "isms" has made this intellectual art irritating.

Being irritating is not a negative aspect of installation since it could force the viewer to employ, which is essential for complementing that art. For example, we could mention the first case mentioned in the first paragraph, which engaged the people in it by gathering the beads from the ground.



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As another example, Juan Muñoz is renowned for sculptural works in which he situates the human figure within elaborate or complex architectural settings. Titled *Double Bind*, the artist has divided the installation into two parts. The downside, the visitor sees a patterned floor that is pierced with a series of massive black holes, some of which are illusions. Going up of this installation and watching it and moving further into the lower space, it becomes apparent that the shafts above are inhabited by a cast of sculpted figures living in it!

