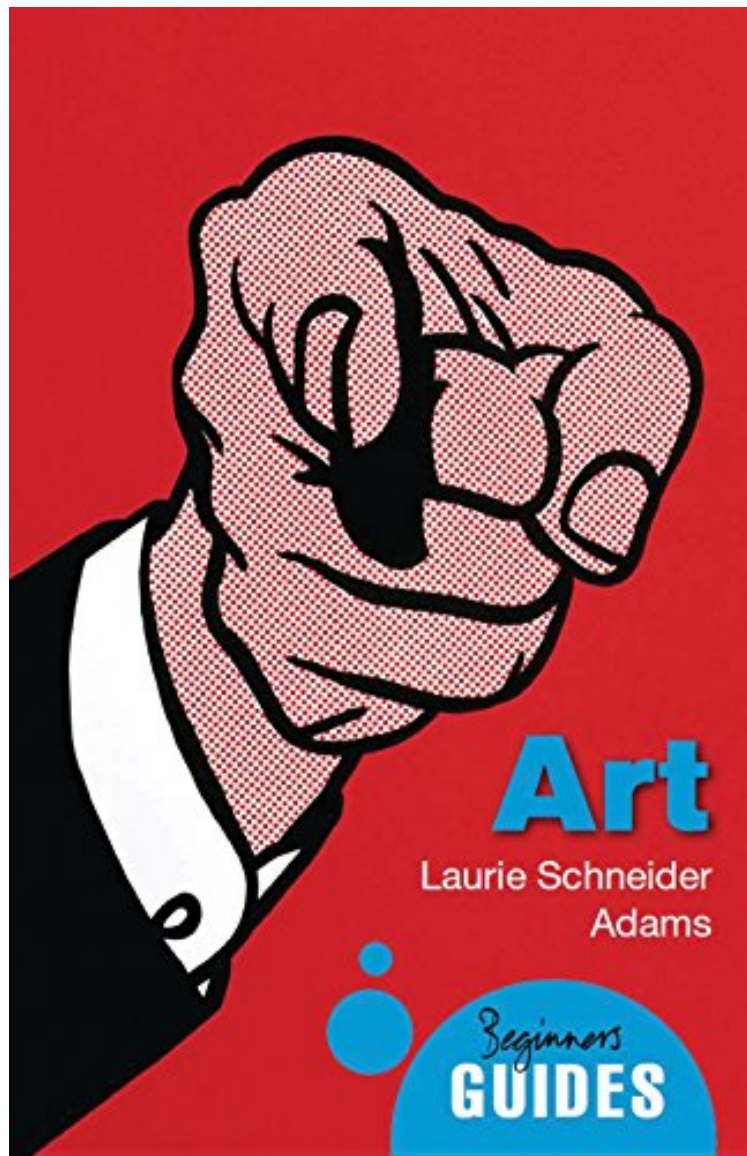


## Art: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides)

*Laurie Schneider Adams*

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**Laurie Schneider Adams : Art: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art: A Beginner's Guide (Beginner's Guides):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I would use it as SUGGESTED READING for an ART CLASS By Marjorie Anderson This book although not as detailed as some text books, it is well written and concise. It would make good supplementary reading for any beginning art class.

Art has existed for as long as humankind, but defining it is notoriously difficult. In this whirlwind tour spanning from

prehistory up to the present day and beyond, Laurie Schneider Adams explores how art and our views on it have evolved. Delving into fascinating issues such as why some artworks can be so controversial, why a forgery can never be as “good” as the original, and what the future of art may hold, this beautifully crafted introduction provides a deft overview of Western artistic tradition. Also providing a helpful guide to understanding art terminology and to reading artworks for meaning, *Art: A Beginner's Guide* is an essential tool for every budding art critic. Laurie Schneider Adams is Professor of Art at John Jay College, City University of New York. She is the author of *A History of Western Art* and *Looking at Art*, and is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Source: Notes in the History of Art*.

"Clear, genuinely informative and likely to stimulate discussion. An excellent introductory text on art, its history, and its place in social life." --Richard Woodfield, Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Art History at the Universities of Birmingham and Glasgow. "In remarkably clear and precise prose, Adams sets the story of art, how it arose, and what its uses are." --Mary Wiseman, Professor Emerita of Philosophy at Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York. "...one of the clearest and most practical and engagingly written books on art history and criticism... Adams makes a ... plea for open-mindedness and sober reflection -- qualities all too absent in a contemporary society awash with blind prejudice and trashy ephemera...." William Yeoman, *The West Australian*....discusses decorative, religious, transcendental, political, criminal and financial motivations in the art world." Andrew McKie, *Art Quarterly*, London, Autumn 2012. From the Back Cover Who was the inspiration for Michelangelo's David? What could make a urinal worth millions? Can a forgery ever be considered art? From Stone Age statuettes to twenty-first-century video art, Laurie Schneider Adams unravels the extraordinary story of Western art in this fast-paced introduction. Reining in the "isms" that often bog down the subject, Adams instead brings to the fore the works themselves, with a comprehensive selection that includes such iconic pieces as Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*, Pollock's *Convergence*, and many more. With a detailed exploration of the controversies and debates that are as much a part of art history as the works themselves, Adams combines an engaging narrative with the basics of art theory. Complemented with color illustrations and a glossary, *A Beginner's Guide* is an essential resource for every budding art critic. About the Author Laurie Schneider Adams is Professor Emerita of Art History at John Jay College, City University of New York. She is the author of *A History of Western Art*, *Art across Time*, *Italian Renaissance Art*, *The Methodologies of Art*, *Art and Psychoanalysis*, *The Making and Meaning of Art*, and *Looking at Art*. She is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Source: Notes in the History of Art* and a psychoanalyst in private practice.