

Reading Questions for September 28

These questions covers the introduction of Larry Shiner's book *The Invention of Art*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

At this point, we're going to look at a different approach to answering the question "What is art?" According to Shiner, we should answer this question by looking at how the concept of art came to be created. Shiner thinks it arose at a particular time – in the eighteenth century in Europe.

*Questions:*

1. On pages 5-7, starting with the section titled "The Great Division" and ending with "... theaters, and reading rooms," Shiner says that the modern concept of art arrived as a result of a split in the eighteenth century. What are the key points Shiner makes about the split? Does his understanding of the current concept of art match your own view of what art is? Why?
2. On page 7, in the paragraph starting "But the new system ..." Shiner makes some points about power, gender, and multiculturalism. What are his key points? Do you agree with him? Why?