

Visual art: a way to communicate



READING

17a Complete the text by inserting the phrases a-h in the right place.

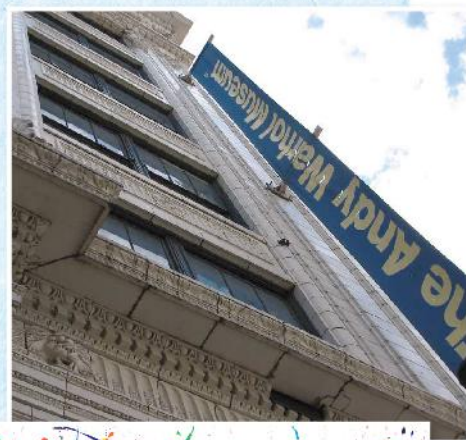
- **a.** the questions of indifferent adolescents • **b.** the teen public difficult • **c.** into laboratories
- **d.** music, poetry or literature • **e.** and publish a magazine • **f.** most visual art production
- **g.** questions about modern art • **h.** interpreters of American art and culture

MUSEUMS: WHAT A BORE!

Men have always felt the need to express their sentiments and perception of the world through the arts: painting, sculpture, (1).

Artists have always communicated with people through their work. (2) is found in museums. But is it really true that museums are for adults and not for young people? Twenty years ago museum programmers considered (3) and unruly, but in recent years their opinions have changed.

Some time ago some high school students were asked to write down (4), after spending two hours in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Their questions were about how art spread new ideas, what the definition of modern art was, why people collected art... These are not (5). Museum directors say: "Teens can provide museums with fresh new energy." That's why several museums have engaged teens in transforming museums (6). The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York have created some of the most innovative relationships with their teen audience. In the Warhol Museum teens stage exhibitions, organize parties and shows (7). In the Walker Art Center teens meet artists and participate in art workshops. The Whitney Museum director for education says that they are giving young people the skills to be critical (8). The success of these initiatives is confirmed by Julia, age 14, who says that when she went to museums in the first years of secondary school, she found the visits boring; now, since she joined some art workshops, she has discovered a new passion and her ambition is to become an art critic.



unruly = indisciplinato
provide = fornire
skills = abilità
stage = curare



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17b **ES** Answer the questions.

1. How do artists communicate with people?
2. What did museum programmers think of the teen audience?
3. How have teenagers' attitudes towards museums changed?
4. What do museum directors say about teenagers?
5. How have museums tried to draw young people into their projects?
6. Which of the three museums mentioned in the text engages young people in conversations with artists?
7. Why has Julia changed her opinion about museums?
8. Have the initiatives taken by museum directors proved adequate?



LISTENING

18 **(2.26)** **K** Martha is interviewing the director of a museum for her school magazine. Listen to their conversation. Are the sentences True (T) or False (F)?

1. The museum is called Children's Museum of Art.
2. It is usually visited by children from 6 to 10.
3. There aren't any activities from children, apart from guided tours.
4. They are working on a project to take teenagers to the museum.
5. Teenagers can get in touch with the museum on-line.
6. Some teenagers and teachers are working with museum staff.
7. They are developing educational activities for children.
8. The theme they are working on is about Medieval painting.
9. Teenagers have to go to the museum to see the works of art.
10. Teenagers can also exchange their opinions about politics and religion.

T	F
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WRITING

19 Write an e-mail to your penfriend about one of your visits to a museum and your interest in art. Use the prompts below.

- what museum
- when
- who with
- on what occasion
- what you did
- general impression
- the best work
- your emotions
- likes and dislikes about museums
- experience of workshops in museums
- interested in visual arts

To: _____
Cc: _____
Object: _____

Hi Richard,
How are you? I'm fine. I'm looking at some photos and there's one taken when I visited...

SPOKEN PRODUCTION

20 Choose a very famous painting from your Art textbook and describe it to your classmates. Give some information about the artist and explain why you have chosen it.