*ART HISTORY*

*What is art? Art is:*

* The expression of an idea or an emotion through material that can be appreciated through the senses (touch, sight, hearing)
* A gift – a special ability for expressing oneself; not everyone has this gift
* Art has a strong cultural component

*What is the function or purpose of art?*

* To express nonverbally those important ideas/emotions
* To entertain, to give pleasure
* Art doesn’t have to be beautiful (aesthetic) but must be expressive
* To form a connection between the past and the future; to maintain/transmit your heritage
* To gain immortality: the artist dies, but the art work lives on and so the artist is not forgotten
* To draw attention to important issues
* To build peace, and conversely to foment\* war
* To share our common humanity

\* [**foment**—*formal* – to cause (trouble) to develop]