

PHIL 4403: Philosophy of Art
Prof. Funkhouser
2/28/05
Paper Assignment #2

Write an approximately 3 or 4 page paper on the topic below. (Those page numbers are just a rough guide. Definitely do not write more than, say, 6 pages though.) Your paper is to be typed, double-spaced, stapled, with numbered pages. Do not use a cover page or bother with a lengthy introduction. Get directly to the topic below. Make sure it is written in proper English! Points will be taken off if there are too many basic writing errors.

Topic: Monroe Beardsley argued that the intentions of the artist are irrelevant when it comes to interpreting a work of art. Whether you accept this claim or not, I want you to discuss a work of art that presents a *prima facie* problem for the claim. That is, provide me with an example of a work of art, from any medium, for which one could plausibly claim that the artist's intentions are relevant to understanding the work. In other words, come up with what you take to be a good candidate for a counter-example to this claim (even if you ultimately agree with Beardsley). Explain the particular intentions or biographical facts of the artist that allegedly clarify the artwork, in ways that inspection of the artwork itself could not provide such clarification. Finally, spend a couple pages making some general conclusions and offering your evaluation of Beardsley's claim.

[You might want to read and utilize Beardsley's "Intentions and Interpretations: A Fallacy Revived" in *APA*, as well as any other readings on interpretation found in *A* and *APA*.]

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Monday, March 14th