

Chapter 7: Electrate Anti-Definition Sound Collage and Transduction

By Thomas M. Geary, Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach, VA

4. “Art” by Francesca “Chris” Laverghetta

In her 2.5-minute collage of voices discussing artistry, Francesca “Chris” Laverghetta blends a variety of confident definitions and inquiries regarding the boundaries of art.

Transcript

Man: [*fades in*] And here, colors to do everything. And by its simplification, a grander style to things, is to be suggestive here first of rest, or of sleep in general. In a word, looking at the picture ought to rest the brain or rather the imagination. [*fades out*]

[*Pencil quickly and rigorously striking paper or canvas*]

Man: [*fades in*] Art flows from the soul, twists through the consciousness, and decorates life with its beauty.

Woman: It’s this object, and you can lose yourself in the wonderfulness of the object, but then the object goes away and stops being an object. It just becomes a window, or a mirror. And that’s what, uh, work has become gradually. [*slowly fades out*] It’s changed.

[*Erasing from a paper or canvas*]

Woman: [*fades in*] A lot of people think the harder something is, the more, like, legitimate it is, which is not, that doesn’t make any sense. Artists have always been trying to make things easier on themselves. That’s why, like, instead of crushing pigment and mixing pigment ourselves, most artists buy paint in a tube. Um, it’s why, like, we get—you can now buy canvas that’s already stretched and primed. You know, like, there’s nothing wrong with, um, making your process easier, especially if it means you can make more art.

Woman: [*fades in*] Maybe sometimes art is everywhere on the streets. If you look at architecture, places, or everything, so you really don’t need to go to any museum to see art. Could be anywhere: in a park, looking at buildings, or going to a movie, so I think the everyday life . . . [*fades out*]

Woman: And, and that same vein, it’s also a way for us to, you know, for us as artists, to explore and to understand things that are important to us. You know? Because, like, art is, is so largely the person that you are and the experiences and the life that you’ve led, you know. Like, every single piece of artwork that you make has a little bit of that, even if you’re not explicitly trying to, you know, make that known. [*laughs*] It just kind of finds its way in there.

[*Excerpt of “The Four Seasons, Op. 8: Concerto No. 4 for Violin in F Minor Rv 297 ‘Winter’: III. Allegro” by Vivaldi as performed by Jose Louis Garcia, Leonard Slatkin, and the English Chamber Orchestra*]

Woman: What is art? Is it the idea? Is it the concept? Can an artist just have the idea and not make the object?

Man: Can art be pure philosophy—pure theory?

Woman: Exactly.