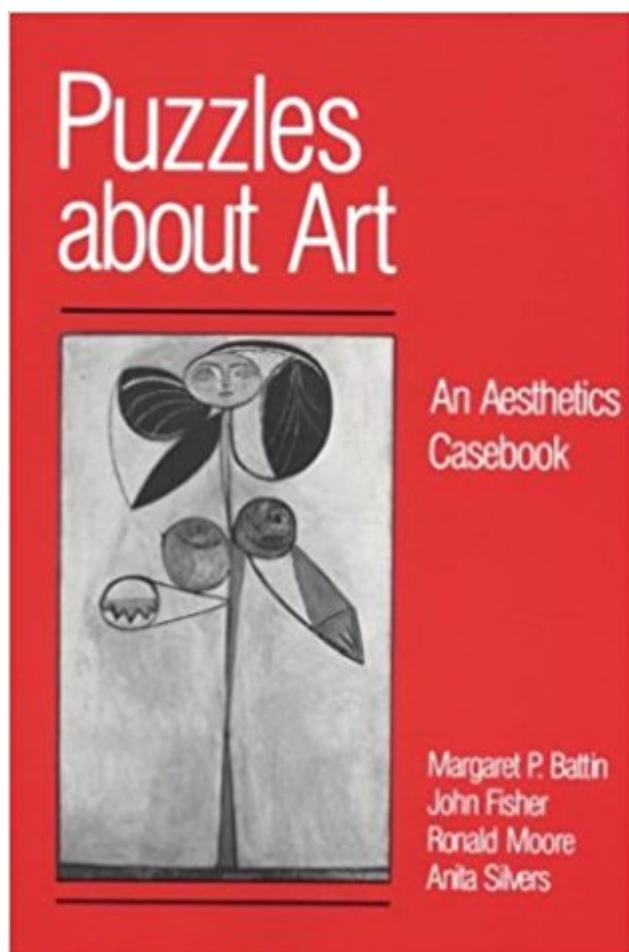


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# Puzzles About Art: An Aesthetics Casebook



## **Synopsis**

The first casebook for use in courses in aesthetics, *Puzzles about Art* provides more than 180 real and hypothetical cases that illustrate important principles and theories in the philosophy of art. With 25 illustrations as well as concrete examples from legal cases, museum experiences, newspaper articles and various media, including painting, sculpture, photography, music, drama, and film, *Puzzles about Art* helps students understand specific problems in the visual arts.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

One important fact about this aesthetics casebook is that it is sheer fun for anybody interested in art. Rather than making general statements about the 6 chapters and their introductory essays (other reviewers have done this), I will note my favorite case study in each chapter. Creativity and Fidelity: Performance, Replication, Reading ----We have the case of the horrible junior high concert where one night the conductor/music teacher wants his 8th graders to hit all the correct notes when performing Bach's First Brandenburg Concerto. And the students do, in fact, hit all the correct notes, since the conductor slowed the temp to super-slow and it took the 8th graders three hours to play their Bach. So, the question is: Did the parents who attended the concert hear Bach's Brandenburg Concerto? For me, this case is not only good for a lively discussion of music and the integrity of art but is also laugh out loud funny. I can imagine sitting through such a concert! Art and Artworks ----Ben Vautier, performance artist, sits on a chair out in a city street with a placard on his lap reading, "Look at me. That's all it takes; I'm art." The questions raised by this case are: Was Ben right? Can a person be an artwork? If so, when will Ben stop being an artwork (perhaps when he

goes home to shower)? Can Ben be an artwork without the placard? I find this a great case study for a very personal reason: years ago I performed 'Living Sculpture' after having extensive training in mime and physical theater. So, I have additional questions: Should my performance be considered art since I had the formal training in using my body as art and Ben did not? I did perform 'Living Sculpture' in a museum during a gallery opening.

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