

Module 4

Activity/Discussion

1. Watch the film *Degenerate Art* created by the LA County Museum of Art on the occasion of an exhibition reproducing the original exhibit. Following the film, discuss the following:

What are the elements in German Expressionist art that create a sense of power in the works? How do color, line, and emotion play a role in expressing emotion in these works? Why would an artist want to paint a blue horse or yellow clouds? What might the artist be conveying or communicating through this action?



Discussion Questions

2. What was the power in the avant-garde art Hitler placed in his *Degenerate Art* exhibition and that he was attempting to suppress? Why? Hint: Huxley's text *An Encyclopedia of Pacifism* is a good place to start.
3. Discuss the idea of a "state" art and the role of politics in art. Do you believe that art should or should not be censored by the government? Why or why not?
4. Read the quote from Hitler's speech inaugurating the Great German Art Exhibition in Module 4 and discuss your reactions to it. Do you agree with his ideas? Why or why not? How could government control of art and artistic endeavors affect a nation?
5. Government control of art is one way to affect change in a people. What are some other ways a government can shape the thinking of its country?