

Discussion #2: Image Manipulation

Appropriated art is created when an artist borrows an existing image or object and reframes it in new ways. Here is a brief explanation of this art form:

<http://vads.ac.uk/spot/?p=95>. Appropriated art is quite popular, and many examples of amateur works can be found in Google images.

Here is an example of appropriated art (Ryan Singer, “Mutton Stew”—is actually appropriation of Andy Warhol’s 1962 “Campbell’s Soup”).

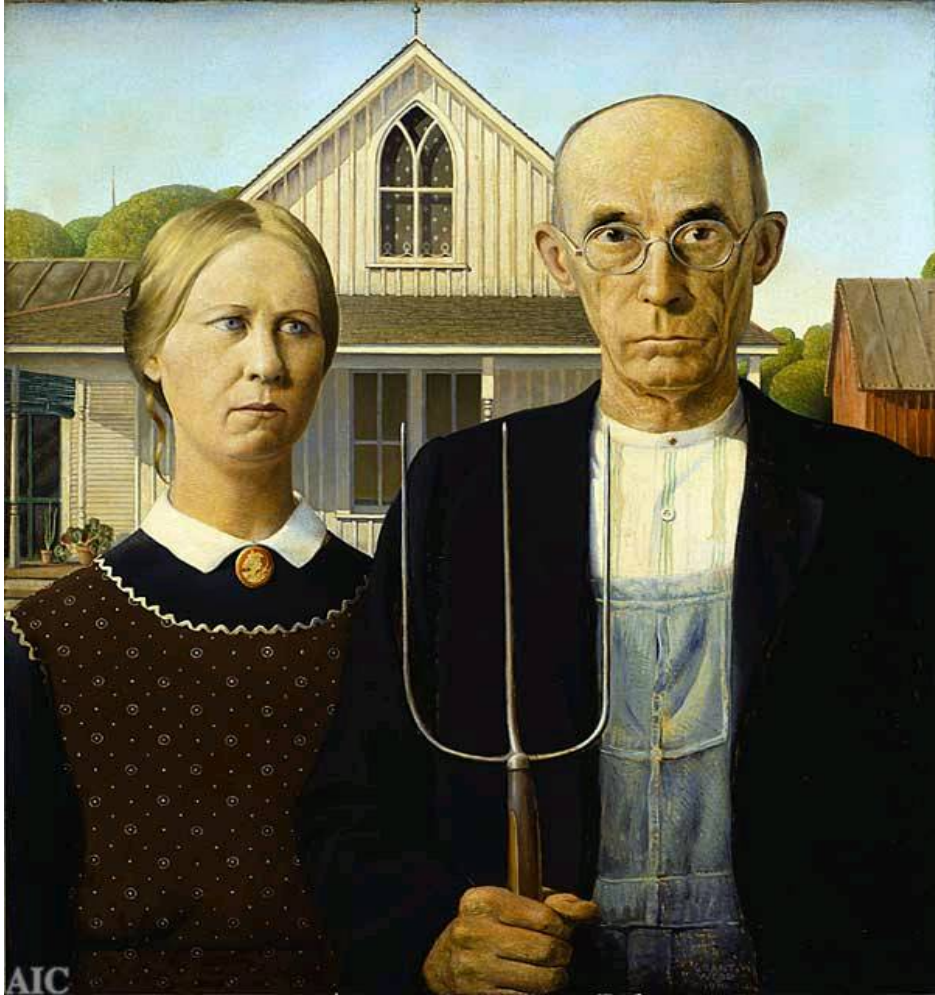


Appropriated art images are a good tool for studying visual literacy and design principles. On one level, your learners can consider which design elements the artist kept from the original piece and why. Which elements did the artist emphasize or change? On another level, your learners can consider how the message changes when the image is seen in its new context. The Mona Lisa has been appropriated in so many contexts, but you are probably familiar with the Marcel Duchamp mustachioed Mona:

<http://www.marcel Duchamp.net/L.H.O.O.Q.php>

We'll try this idea ourselves by looking at another famous painting that has and continues to enjoy being the object of many appropriate art attempts. Examine the image of this famous painting posted below, and click the link to read an analysis of it.

[NPR Interview with Thomas Hoving](#)



Wood, Grant. American Gothic. 1930. Art Access: The Art Institute of Chicago. Friends of Art Collection. August 2004. <http://www.artic.edu/artaccess/AA_Modern/pages/MOD_5.shtml#>.

This painting has been appropriated quite often with simple to complex image manipulation. Now go to Google Images or your favorite image search engine and search for "American Gothic." Take your time examining the search results; some will be more interesting than others. Find an interpretation of "American Gothic" and post it in your reply here along with your analysis of the image manipulation. Analyze the appropriated image in terms of design and meaning.

Optional Challenge: If you are able, feel free to share your own attempt to alter an image. The image does not need to be famous or from the fine arts.