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Art can affect people in ways that the artist may not notice. Jerry Saltz writes about this in *What Art. What Artists Do*. Saltz says that art does not change the world directly. Instead art changes the world slowly, in ways that're not always clear. I think this makes the effect of art hard to understand. There is not always a moment when we can say that one piece of art has changed something. Sometimes the change is simply that a person questions something they once believed. Art may help a person understand another person or see something from another angle. This makes me wonder how much control an artist has over the effect of the artist's work. When a person sees a piece of art, that person brings memories, beliefs and experiences to art. This can give the work a meaning that's different from what the artist intended. In that sense the power of art to create change may not belong entirely to the artist. The power of art also depends on the person who experiences art. Saltz's idea that change happens "by osmosis" makes me think that art can have an effect without telling a person what to think. I think this is part of Saltz's larger point about how artists can influence people without knowing exactly what their work will do. Sydney's experience with creating art made me think about this idea of change. Sydney questions whether Sydney's own art really matters in the world. Sydney says that creating still matters personally because art brings joy and calm. Even though art seems like a small effect compared to changing the world, I think that might actually be the point. Art has already changed something by changing how Sydney feels. Maybe changing the world through art is not always one event. Art could be a series of small changes happening to people that we do not even realize are happening.

Another part of Saltz's argument is that artists cannot always control how people understand their work. An artist can create something with a meaning in mind. That does not mean everyone else will see it the way the artist sees it. Saltz talks about this by comparing artists to cats and art to dogs. Saltz says that artists communicate indirectly because they put the art between the artist and the audience. Saltz then explains that art is like a dog because "you just never know how art is going to behave when there are people around." I think this is a strange comparison at first. It makes sense when we think about how unpredictable art can become once other people experience art. The artist might make something because of a memory or feeling while a person looking at art might connect it to a memory from that person's life. Neither the artist nor the person is necessarily wrong because they look at art through their experiences. This makes me think that the meaning of art is not finished when the artist finishes creating art. Part of the meaning might actually be created later by the people who experience art. This also connects back to

Saltz's idea of art creating change because that change can be different for every person. One person might feel comfort from a piece of art, while someone else might feel uncomfortable or confused by it. I think this is what makes art different from other ways of communicating. The artist can start the conversation. The artist cannot completely decide where that conversation goes. Maybe that's part of what makes art meaningful to different people.

Saltz also talks about how thinking and feeling are connected when we experience art. Art can change what a person thinks. Art can also change how a person feels. I feel that these two parts are more linked than we sometimes think. Saltz talks about this by questioning the split between thought and feeling. Saltz says that all thought comes from feeling and that feeling comes from thought. He also argues that we cannot really separate the two. This helps explain why people can look at the same piece of art but react to it differently. We do not just look at art. We also think logically about what art means. Our emotions, memories and experiences also shape how we understand art. This gives me the idea that feeling might be a way art changes a person's thought. Fiona's reply to Saltz also made me think more about this link. Fiona talks about how art can bring out more than one feeling at a time, even when those feelings seem to go against each other. I think that shows how complicated people's reactions to art can be. People do not keep their emotions separate from their thoughts when they experience art. Maybe this is another reason artists cannot fully control what art does. Artists can create the work. Artists cannot control all of the feelings, memories and thoughts that another person brings when experiencing art.

Saltz also makes me question whether art is something people actually need. Art can clearly affect people. It is not clear if this alone means art is necessary. Toward the end of his essay Saltz says, "Art is not optional. Art is necessary." I can see why Saltz would say this after everything he discusses about art. The word "necessary" creates questions. Usually when I think of something necessary, I think of something we need to live such as food, water or shelter. Art does not seem necessary in that sense. Perhaps Saltz is referring to a different kind of need. Earlier Saltz brings up a judge who worked on trials involving terrible things that happened during the war. The judge would go to a museum to look at Vermeer paintings because they helped him feel more at peace with everything he was dealing with. The paintings could not change the war or make the judge's work disappear. They could change how the judge dealt with the war. This makes me think that something does not have to be needed for survival to still matter in our lives. Art can help people feel better, understand their emotions or just take their minds off something for a while. I still don't know if I would call all art necessary because everyone experiences it differently. Maybe what is truly necessary is having a way to experience, express and understand things that're hard to put into words. Art is one of the ways humans can do that.