

## The Institutional Theory of Art



George Dickie (1936- )

For an object to be considered as art it must meet two conditions :

1. The object must be an artefact. It must have been worked on by humans. (This can be interpreted in a very broad manner).
2. The object must have been *given the status of art* by a member of the art world e.g. a gallery owner, art critic etc.

### Problem

What criteria does the member of the art world use when deciding whether or not to grant an object the status of art?

- a) If the member uses no criteria, then the definition of art is arbitrary and meaningless.
- b) If the member uses some specific criteria, then these criteria should define art and not the institutional theory.