



# Defining the vision of an Artist.

## Discussion Guide

### Introduction

#### Discussion Guide: Defining the Vision of an Artist

##### 1. Opening Reflection

- Ask participants: *When you look at a tree, a table, or a shadow, do you think you see it “as it is,” or through habits and learned conventions?*
- Discuss briefly how perception is shaped by culture, experience, and language.

**Prompt:** Share an example where something familiar suddenly looked different when you really observed it.

---

##### 2. Perception vs. Convention

- Present the examples from the lecture: table shapes, tree colors, shadow hues.
- Ask: *Why do you think society teaches us to simplify or standardize what we see?*
- Discuss how these conventions help with daily life but can limit artistic perception.

**Activity:** Have participants sketch a simple object (like a chair or a cup) and notice if it appears different from their mental “standard” version.

---

##### 3. The Artist's Perception

- Compare ordinary perception vs. artistic perception:
  - Ordinary: sees what is convenient and socially agreed upon.

- Artistic: sees nuances, overlooked details, and hidden aspects.
- Ask: *Can you think of a time when an artist or filmmaker made you notice something you'd never noticed before?*

---

#### **4. Beyond Imitation**

- Discuss how art doesn't always imitate reality, abstract, surreal, or expressionist works may reject literal depiction.
- Prompt discussion: *Is the value of art in seeing reality more clearly, or in seeing it differently?*
- Encourage examples from literature, visual arts, or film where the artist presents a unique vision.

---

#### **5. Habit, Attention, and Fading of Vision**

- Explore how repeated exposure dulls our perception.
- Ask: *How can an artist, or anyone, resist the fading of attention and see the world with fresh eyes?*
- Activity: Spend 5 minutes observing a common object and listing details most people overlook.

---

#### **6. Identity and Vision**

- Discuss the tension between projecting oneself in art vs. letting art shape one's identity.
- Questions for reflection:
  - *When you create, are you expressing yourself, or are you discovering yourself through your work?*
  - *Can art have personal meaning and still resonate with others?*

---

#### **7. Conclusion and Reflection**

- Revisit the key questions from the lecture:
  - *Do you see as most people see, or do you dare to see beyond conventions?*
  - *Will your vision define your art, or will your art define your vision?*
- Encourage participants to journal or discuss in small groups how their perception influences their creative practice.

---

### **Optional Activity**

- Choose a common scene (a street, a park, a room) and create two interpretations:
  1. A conventional view (how most people might see it).
  2. An artistic view (highlight unusual angles, colors, or emotions).
- Share and discuss the differences, emphasizing how perception shapes artistic vision.