131 Work of Art, Fall 2014
Inquiry Assignment #2
Newlands
Due: Tuesday, October 14th

Learning Objectives:

• Develop an ability to deconstruct artworks’ multiple layers of meaning and allegory, and to identify how these meanings are communicated
• Use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating
• Identify how art reflects social and political landscapes as well as how art helps to construct social and political landscapes
• Reflect on how own attitudes and beliefs are different from those of other cultures and communities
• Recognize the social construction of race, ethnicity, gender, sexualities, and class—and the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others

Introduction:
Cynthia Freeland describes Lucy Lippard’s analysis of Serrano’s work as a “three-pronged analysis” in which “she examines (1) his work’s formal and material properties; (2) its content (the thought or meaning it expresses); and (3) its context, or place in the Western art tradition” 18.

Assignment:
Using the ‘three-pronged analysis’ method, write a 500-word analysis of a work of art by an artist whose work is mentioned in the first chapter of “Art Theory.” Do not choose something we looked at or discussed in class. Begin each description with the artwork’s title, the artist’s first and last name, and the date it was created. Include the object’s dimensions and a list of materials (i.e. ‘paint on canvas’ or ‘bronze”).

1. In the first step, describe the object as though you’re writing to someone who cannot see. At this point, withhold any judgment. You’ll have a chance to express your point of view after you thoroughly complete your description.

2. Only after you have completely illustrated the object in words, interpret the work’s content. Freeland identifies content as what the writer believes to be the “thought or meaning” the work expresses.

3. The last step in the three-pronged analysis is to examine the work’s place in its tradition. In some cases this may require you to explain its place in Western tradition—in addition to its place within another (or other) tradition(s.)