When framing and sharing our interpretations there is an element of persuasion that is required. In many ways this relates to Roy Harris’ categories of art theory, which can be used to frame the question of who decides what counts as art, and why. This exercise asks you to think of interpretation as an exercise in persuasion, articulating the details of meaning in order to advocate for the perspective you are presenting.

On the back of this page, write the names of your group members and the name of the artwork you are discussing. There is also space provided to summarize your interpretations of the work.

A. Interpretation
1. **Description.** As you have done with previous exercises, begin by describing the artwork and its context, identifying key elements and relationships that seem important to the work. Discuss the different associations and possible meanings of the work as well.

2. **Contextualization.** Discuss the work and its associations in terms of the categories in the Roy Harris text. How can the artistic value of the work be framed in institutional, idiocentric or conceptual terms?

3. **Synthesis.** As a group, synthesize your discussion, choosing one key way to frame the work and articulate an interpretation. Try to formulate a 1-2 sentence interpretation of the main ideas. Write your interpretation on the back of this page.

B. Persuasion

4. Using the synthesized interpretation you came up with, discuss possible ways to advocate for your position. This might involve argumentation, grounding the work in institutional terms; it might involve seduction, building poetic descriptions that activate the imagination of others; it might involve speculation, conceptualizing ways in which the work challenges our regular ways of thinking. This could be thought of as a sales pitch or as a poetic presentation—there are no right or wrong strategies—only differently persuasive perspectives. If you encounter difficulty, try thinking of your interpretation in terms of the creativity exercises we have done in class, considering ways to strategically simplify or exaggerate your perspective—or using the interpretation as a metaphor for other variations of meaning or context.

5. Reformulate your interpretation using one of the persuasive strategies you discussed, and record a summary on the back of this page.
Identify the members of your group and their ideas in the space below. Feel free to use this space to take notes as well, as needed:

Name of Artwork: ________________________________________________________________

First Interpretation (synthesized from the discussion):
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Second Interpretation (persuasively reformulated):
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________