Introduction to the Philosophy of Art

Why do artists create works of art? And why do we consume art? What do we say when we say that a work of art is beautiful? Is the pleasure we take in works of art purely emotional or is there an intellectual component to the pleasure? Is the pleasure we experience private and subjective or is it (sometimes) shared and objective? What is common to kinds of art such as painting, sculpture, poetry and literature, architecture and music and how are they different? Why in fact is there a variety of kinds of art? In the course we will think together about some of these questions and others through reading main works from the history of the philosophy of art and leading essays by twentieth century thinkers.