

# “The Art of Seeing Beyond Definitions”

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MVCS - September 2024



GSR, Maisi. Beyond Definitions. 2023, MV

Labels and categories are used to organize the world around us: good or bad, right or wrong, simple or complex.

Definition is a natural way of understanding reality ...



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Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans, 1962

... but when going beyond these boundaries, reality becomes much more nuanced.



- Definitions and labels are like primary colors: simple and useful to an extent
- Insufficient to capture the reality of the complexity of human life.
- Allowing these definitions to blend and expand opens the way for richer and more meaningful perceptions





The art of seeing beyond definitions is an invitation to freedom.

A conscious choice to transcend the limitations imposed by labels and to open up to the vast spectrum of possibilities that life offers.

Giuseppe Arcimboldo,  
Summer, 1572  
Italian, 1527-1593

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Summer | Denver Art Museum

Giuseppe Arcimboldo [jew-SEP-pay arch-im-BOLD-OH] was born to a distinguished family in Milan, Italy, and began working as an artist at the Milan...

[denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)



## Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?

 [collections.mfa.org](https://collections.mfa.org)

“The questions posed in the title and indeed in the painting itself are perennial concerns about the human condition that continue to resonate with viewers today: **origins, identity, purpose, and destiny.**”



Dalí's interest in quantum physics and the scientific discoveries of the time and the notion that reality can be broken down into subatomic particles invisible to our eyes is a clear way of seeing “beyond definitions”.

By taking a closer look at the physical world and our perceptions of it, we find a complexity that goes beyond what our senses initially tell us. The painting challenges the traditional, limited view of time, space and memory.

Salvador Dalí,  
The Disintegration of the  
Persistence of Memory,  
1952–54

When we see beyond labels,  
we begin to perceive the  
complexity and individuality  
in each person, situation, or  
event.

We avoid making hasty  
judgments and embrace the  
idea that just as colors mix  
to form new shades, human  
beings are made up of  
multiple experiences,  
stories, and perspectives  
that don't always fit into a  
single definition.







Vincent van Gogh  
The Starry Night Saint Rémy,  
June 1889

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