

Why Should Your College Acquire a Difficult Work?

Core Competency: Teamwork

Your university has received a donation to purchase art to hang in the art building. The director of the college gallery has made recommendations to the board of trustees as to what works should be acquired. However, the board would like to hear student opinions. Your art teacher has asked you and two other students to present to the board regarding a painting by Minimalist Agnes Martin. Like Judd (figure 20.41), Martin, a Canadian-born American artist, created a number of similar works. Her paintings consist of plain backgrounds on which she drew a grid of evenly spaced, straight lines in pencil. An example is shown in figure 20.48.

Prepare a five-minute presentation with your two classmates that you can give to the board explaining why the college should purchase a Martin painting. You must support the purchase. Be sure to consider answers to these questions:

- What was the Minimalist movement?
- How does Martin fit within the Minimalist movement?
- Why would it be a good choice to have a Minimalist work hanging in the art building?
- Why would it be a good choice to feature a work by a woman artist?
- Why would the work be considered art?
- Why would a difficult, provocative work like Martin's be a good choice for a university environment?

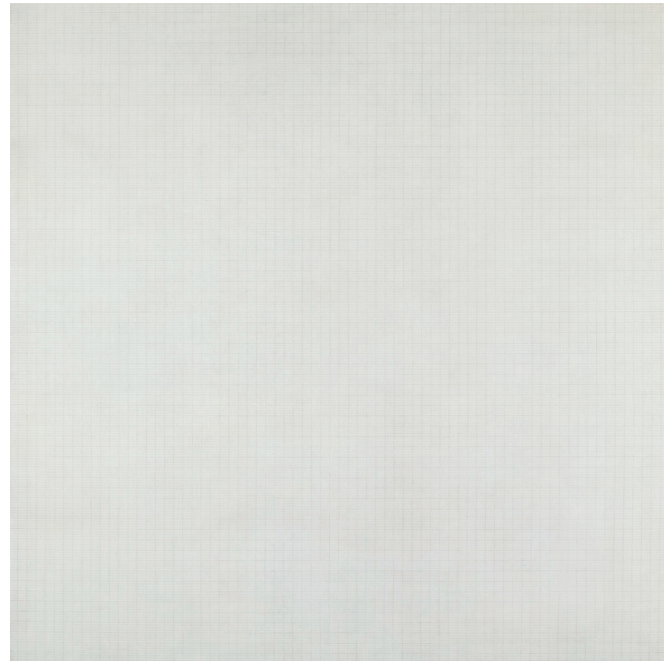


FIGURE 20.48. Agnes Martin. *Leaf*. 1965. Acrylic and graphite on canvas, 6' $\frac{1}{16}$ " \times 6' $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas.