

Is a Raimondi Print Art?

Core Competency: Teamwork

Working with a classmate, look again at Marcantonio Raimondi's print (reproduced here as figure 7.38). Each of you pick a side to argue as to whether or not the print is art. Write down points to support your position.

When you are finished, try to decide together which of you is right. Consider the context of the image described in Chapter 7 (figure 7.6) and these issues:

- If a print is used for a utilitarian purpose, can it still be considered art? Why or why not?
- How does the Raimondi print differ from the copy of the image reproduced in the print version of the book (figure 7.6)?
- The print presents what many would consider an aesthetically beautiful scene of perfectly posed figures with idealized bodies. Does the fact that the image may be pleasing to the eye matter? Why or why not?
- Is it relevant that Raimondi copied Raphael's drawing exactly with no modifications of his own? Why or why not?
- What about technique and skill? Does the fact that Raimondi had to be an excellent engraver to recreate Raphael's work make a difference? Why or why not?
- Who is the artist—Raphael, Raimondi, or both men? What if Raimondi had not been in a partnership with Raphael and had copied and reproduced the drawing without permission, trying to pass it off as Raphael's work? (In fact, Raimondi did anger other artists by copying their work deceptively!)
- Does the fact that printmaking is usually a collaborative process matter? Why or why not?
- Is this work an original print? Does the fact that this work is or is not an original print matter? Why or why not?
- This print is in the collections of a number of museums. If a work belongs to a museum, does that make it art? Why or why not?



FIGURE 7.38. Marcantonio Raimondi after Raphael. *The Judgment of Paris* reconsidered.