

[Censorship]

## The Five Most Common Defenses of Scandalous Art

(according to Anthony Julius, Transgressions: The Offenses of Art)

1. The First Amendment Defense:  
art is entitled to constitutional protection
2. The Aesthetic Alibi:  
art is a privileged zone in which the otherwise unsay-able can be said
3. The Estrangement Defense:  
art instructs by jolting viewers out of their conventional responses
4. The Formalist defense:  
it's naïve to talk about what art means, because the only proper subject of art is it's own formal properties
5. The Canonic Defense:  
many works of art refer to older and now canonical works, so it's ignorant to let them offend you, unless you want to take offensive at the older works also

### Censored For Sexuality

Robert Mapplethorpe [1946-1989] Long Island, New York  
Censored for: *The Perfect Moment* [exhibition], 1988

Sally Mann [1951- ] Lexington, Virginia  
Censored for: *Immediate Family* [exhibition], 1991

### Censored For Religious Content

Andres Serrano [1950- ] New York, New York  
Censored for: *Piss Christ*, 1989

Chris Offili [1968- ] Manchester, England  
Censored for: *The Holy Virgin Mary*, 1996

**Debate Assignment:** You will be grouped into teams of experts, either liberal or conservative for each topic [sexuality and religion]. Research the major figures for your topic, the artworks involved and the cultural climate at the time. Prepare lecture notes, visual aids and questions that support both your topic and your bias. Be ready to debate the other groups about the topic of censorship in art.

You will be graded on research, participation and persuasiveness. [10%]