



The Dinner Party  
By Judy Chicago

# ART CRITICISM

Images and Quotations from Judy Chicago, Through the Flower and Donald Woodman

# Entering The Dinner Party



"And She Gathered All before Her / And She made for them A Sign to See / And lo They saw a Vision / From this day forth Like to like in All things. And then all that divided them merged / And then Everywhere was Eden Once again."

Step 1: Describe: What do you see?



Dimensions: 576 x 576 inches:  
48 feet on each side



Looking down the table; There are 39 separate place settings; 13 on each side





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# Discussion; Describe

- What do you see?
- Describe the size and scale of the artwork.
- Other information:
  - It is currently located in the Brooklyn Museum in New York as a permanent installation.
  - The artwork was started in 1974, and completed in 1979.

## Step 2: Analyze

- This is an art installation consisting of 39 place setting that consist of textile work and ceramics. It sits on a ceramic tile platform.






Discuss the elements of art you see. Discuss how they are used.





# Elements of Art

The artist has successfully incorporated all elements of art into this artwork:

- Line
  - Shape
  - Form
  - Space
  - Color
  - Value
  - Texture
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## Step 3: Interpretation: What is the artist's meaning or message?



# In the artist's own words:

The artist Judy Chicago has been outspoken and clear about her meaning and intentions for this artwork from its inception to present time. In addition to the heritage panels pictured, she has written essays, published books and even saw to it that a curriculum based on her artwork was created. Not many artists from history have been so comprehensive about ensuring her meaning and message be conveyed clearly.



## Step 4: Judgment

- Critics have had their say; this is a highly controversial artwork. Critics have praised it, and have harshly criticized it. Partially because of the criticism after it's first successful showing, the remainder of the scheduled museum showings were systematically cancelled.
- Supporters of the work and the artist pulled donations together and created a grass roots movement to ensure the work be shown in alternate locations. Believers in the artist and her message bypassed the formal gallery showings and ensured the artwork would be experienced by viewers all over the world. The result is "Through the Flower" which is still in operation today.





Step 4: What do you think of the work, and why? Discuss...



# Thought you should know.....

In 2002, Dr. Elizabeth Sackler purchased the artwork from her own private funds, 23 years after the work was completed.

In 2007, the work was finally permanently housed in the Brooklyn Museum.

To date private donations are still made to Judy Chicago and her foundation Through the Flower to continue her teachings. She has completed more artworks of social significance thanks to that support.