

CHAPTER 10

“Bad” Art

By Marella Dagan



Preview Questions

- **Have you visited any art museums?
Which ones?**
- **What is good art, and what is bad art?**

I love art and visit art museums when I can. For example, last year I visited the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York and the Louvre in Paris. They **were thrilling!**

Last month, I **was sent** to Boston for a meeting. I **was excited** about the trip because I'd heard great things about Boston's Museum of Modern Art. After my meeting, I got a taxi and said, "To the MOMA, please." Over the loud music, the taxi driver shouted, "Really? Okay." Twenty minutes later, I **was dropped off** in front of an old movie theater. A sign read: *The Museum of Bad Art (MOBA). Welcome!*

At first I **got upset**. I had wanted the *MOMA*. But then I laughed and followed the signs to a small room in the basement. What I found **was amazing**. The walls **were crowded** with bright, unusual paintings by artists I **wasn't acquainted with**. For example, *Lucy in the Field with Flowers* shows a grey-haired woman sitting in a field of white flowers with a yellow sun in the sky. It wasn't so bad, I thought. In fact, it **could be shown** in a "real" museum. "That one **was found** in the trash," a man behind me said. I turned around, surprised. "We think it **was done** in the early 1970s," he said. "But the artist **hasn't been identified**."

I learned that the MOBA **has been supported by** donations since it opened in 1995. And since then, the idea **has been copied**—for example, there's now the Official Bad Art Museum of Art (O.B.A.M.A.) in Seattle. I **used to go** only to famous museums. But now I think “bad” art museums are a great idea. Who knows when the next Pablo Picasso **is going to be discovered?**

Reading Comprehension

1. Where is the Museum of Bad Art?

In Boston, in an old movie theater.

2. What kind of art is found at the MOBA?

Bad art.

3. How does the writer, Marella, describe the paintings at the MOBA?

Bright and unusual.

4. What types of museums will Marella visit in the future? **Both famous and “bad” art museums.**

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

*Change the sentences from active to passive.
Leave out information if it's not important.*

1. The taxi driver drove Marella to the wrong museum.

Marella was driven to the wrong museum.

2. The art at the MOBA amazed Marella.

Marella was amazed by the art at the MOBA.

3. An artist painted *Lucy* in the 1970s.

***Lucy* was painted in the 1970s.**

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

*Change the sentences from active to passive.
Leave out information if it's not important.*

4. No one has identified the artist yet.

The artist hasn't been identified yet.

5. The experience changed Marella's opinion of
"bad" art.

**Marella's opinion of "bad" art was changed by
the experience.**

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