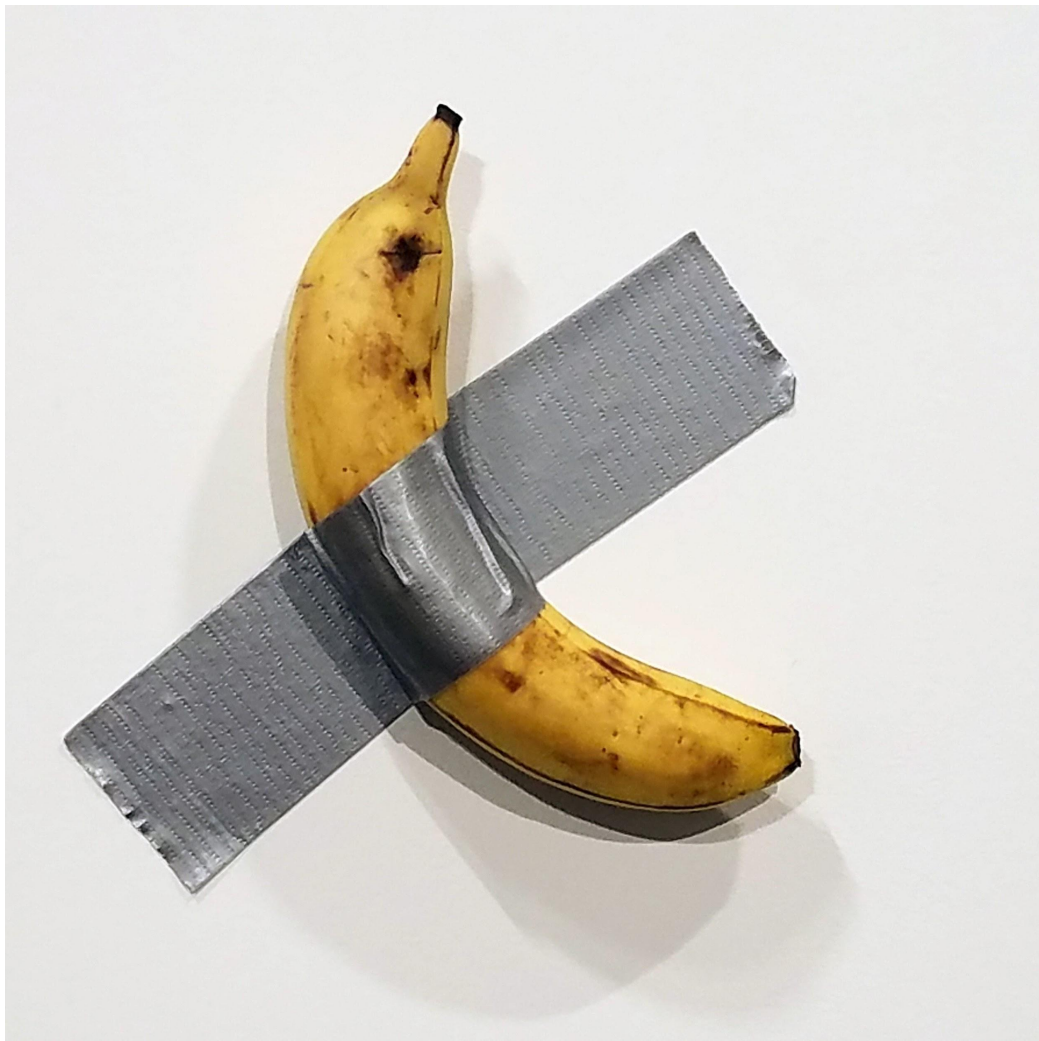


**Title: Is this art?**

Subtitle: I didn't ask if you hated it. I asked if it was art.



# Media Reaction

## Someone ate the \$120,000 banana duct-taped to the wall of an art gallery

By Howard Cohen and Siobhan Morrissey, Miami Herald  
Tribune News Service - Published: Dec 08, 2019 at 10:05 am

Culture

### This Banana Was Duct-Taped to a Wall. It Sold for \$120,000.

Buyers at Art Basel certainly thought it was a-peel-ing.

By James Grebey  
December 7, 2019

## An Artist Duct Taped A Banana To A Wall And Sold It For \$120,000

When life gave Maurizio Cattelan bananas... he taped them to a wall and made massive amounts of money.

By Jenna Amatulli  
Dec 6, 2019, 04:17 PM EST

LIFESTYLE

## Banana duct-taped to a wall sells for \$120K at Art Basel Miami

By Mara Siegler and Natalie O'Neill  
Published Dec. 5, 2019  
Updated Dec. 6, 2019, 11:37 a.m. ET

OPINION

## Opinion: This Art Is Bananas

DECEMBER 7, 2019 · 8:03 AM ET

HEARD ON WEEKEND EDITION SATURDAY



Scott Simon

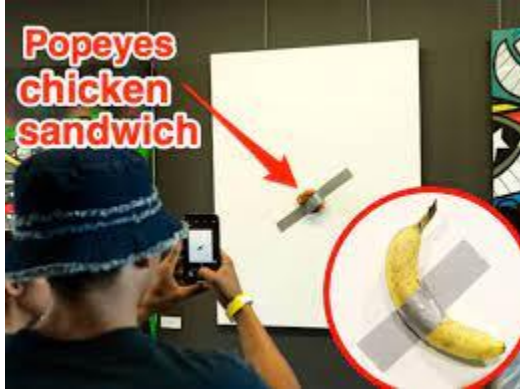
## A man ate \$120,000 duct-taped banana art: 'I really love this installation. It's very delicious'



Hannah Yasharoff  
USA TODAY

Published 7:09 a.m. ET Dec. 9, 2019 | Updated 4:51 p.m. ET Dec. 9, 2019

# memes



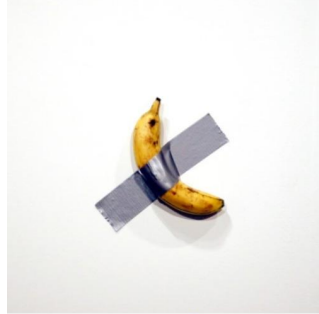
## BANANAS!

**Art world gone mad — this duct-taped fruit sold for \$120K**

The rich and their money are crazy. At the Art Basel Show in Miami, Florida artist Maurizio Cattelan has taped bananas to the wall, titled a "Comedian," and sold at least two artworks for \$120,000.

**SEE PAGE 3**

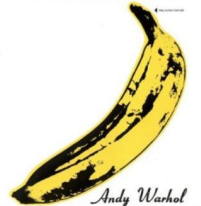
**ONE OF THESE IS ART.**



Dr Pepper @drpepper

We'll start this bid at \$23. Yes this is real.

It's abstract art! It's a banana duct taped to a wall

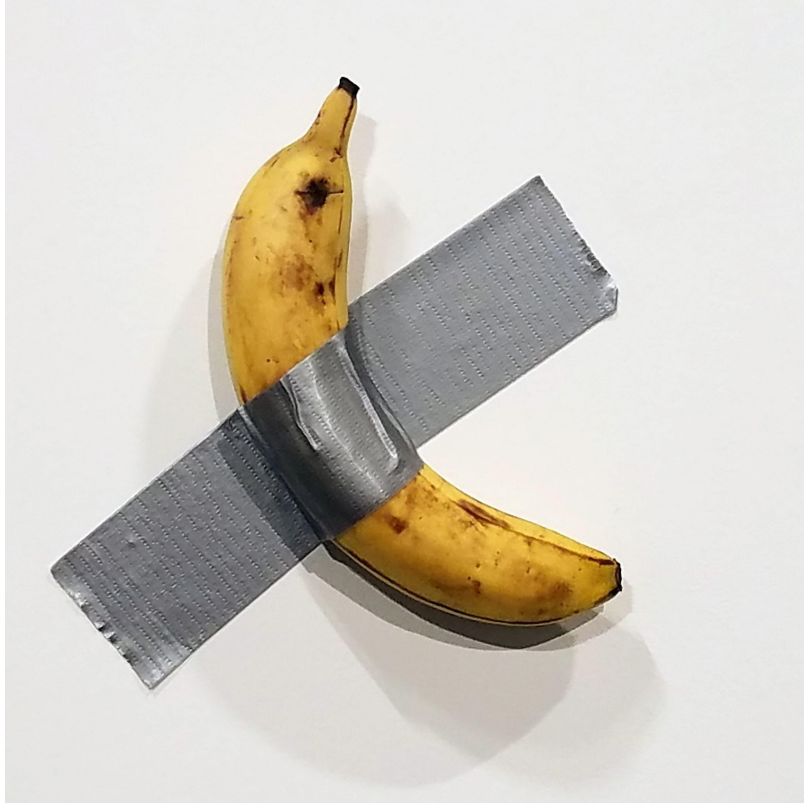


## Eating the banana





# Comedian by Maurizio Cattelan



Conceptual art made in 2019

Debuted and sold out at Art Basel (a Miami based contemporary art fair)

Edition of 3 + 2 artists proofs

All sold for \$120,000-\$150,000 each

One sold to a French Boutique owner, one was donated to the Guggenheim, others were purchased by unknown buyers

# Art Basel



- Miami-based art fair
- Lots of high-end art
- \$75 to get in
- Past and new works
- Parties spark up around

What did \$150,000 actually buy?

A certificate

That's kinda it



# More on certificates

Outside the art world - a COA (Certificate of Authenticity) says “this thing next to the certificate is the real thing.”

What is a COA in the absence of the art?

Instructions on how to make the art

The right to show, sell, loan the art

# Maurizio Cattelan

Italian Sculptor (mostly)

Satirist and Humorist

Hyper-realism

“Installations” AKA building art for the space it is in

# Maurizio Cattelan Past Works

Him



Self  
portrait



L.O.V.E.

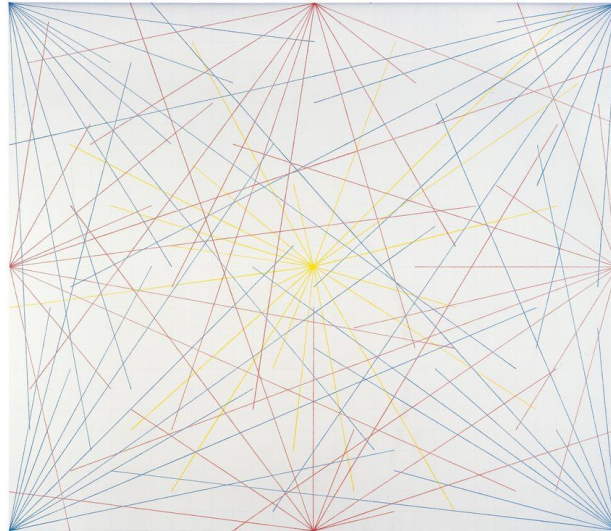
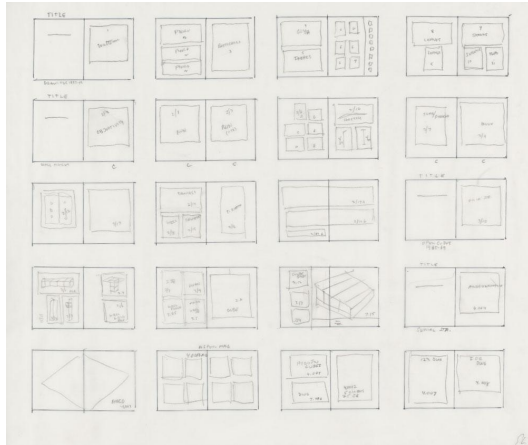


America

# Art history

Sol Lewitt and instructions

Marcel Duchamp and nihilism





# Art history 2

Bananas and  
feminism - Natalia  
Lach-Lachowicz  
and Warhol

Duct Tape and the  
working class





Ok. But why did this piece get made? Why were people willing to pay for it?

Art as an investment

Art for the privileged few

Art as performance and participation

# Art as participation

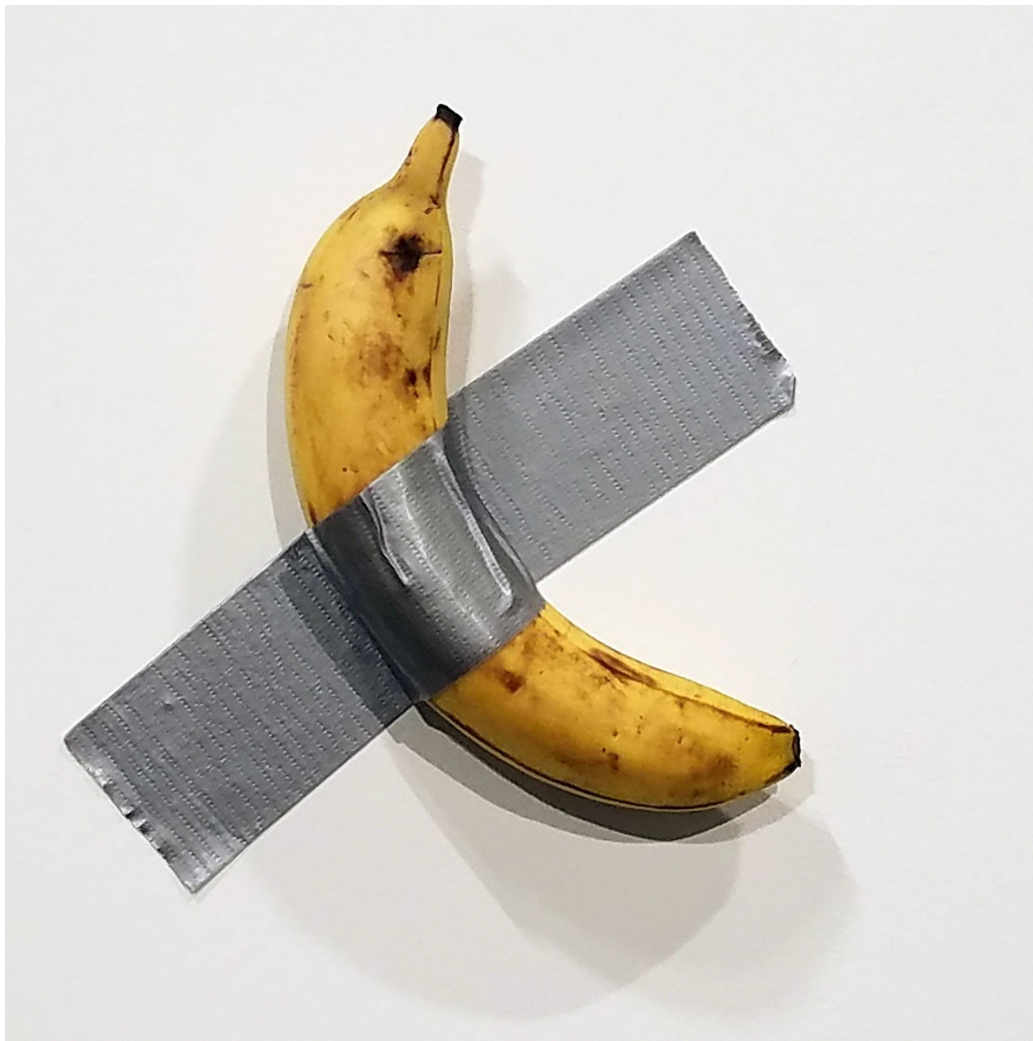
Ultimately - art is what we give attention to as art

Pro Wrestling

Art is about making us feel something - individually and as a group

So. Is it art?

And do you  
hate it?



# Sources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=so8sB25IL4o>