

Analyzing the Nature of Art

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Abstract: The reason for that Art is Art is that it has generated a concern about the visual forms. In our technological society, which depends so heavily on the scientific method, art enables us to communicate ideas that we cannot express in other ways. What is Art, who need it, and why we need it, analyze the nature of Art.

Keywords: the nature of art; design; art forms

1. Introduction

Art? What is the nature of it? Clearly the human race must, for we have continued to invent ways to express our concerns artistically for more than thirty thousand years. In our technological society, which depends so heavily on the scientific method, art enables us to communicate ideas that we cannot express in other ways. American scholar Herbert A. Simon (1916-2001) once said: "The world we are living in is composed of things designed by the nature and things designed by human beings. It is a complicated compound body." Design is the artistic creation activity conducted by human beings in order to accomplish certain purposes. Design is contained in the establishing process of all the artifacts. The design activity itself emerged with the appearance of human beings.

2. Art and I

I fell in love with the art when I was a children, remember in that time I was deeply in love with paint, and use it to express my feelings of life. Brush is always one of my favorite toys, Although I did not know how to use brush at that time, also always likes to imitate the adult appearance to leaps splash-ink, even if I didn't even know what it is. I like art, I like to smile the taste of art, I like the smell of the ink when I painting, like the soft white paper also like the light smell from the storm out of the mud and grass, of course, I enjoy the most is the great satisfaction and small achievement after drawing. Fortunately, mom and dad gave me the greast support for I love to art and my pursuit of art, provide me with a very good help in mentally and physically, never have shortage of HuaJu in my home: pencils, colored pencils, pens, ink painting, calligraphy paper, paper, sketch, etc. Remember stroll bookstore every time, my mother always remember to purchase a drawing of the books for me, and dad always allow me to stick my painting on the wall of my room, so I draw more paintings full fill whit the room until the roof, I appreciate my mom and dad gave me the great support

from I was a child, that produces a very important role in the way of art for me.

When in primary school, I have a preliminary understanding of art, when the main is inspiring quality, like using simple tools to depict and writing some feelings of life under the guidance of teachers, remember when I was in the sixth grade my painting "Celebrating National Day" won the national "Twin cup" children's painting and calligraphy competition: bronze. Enter middle school, The study began, began more system in drawing and colour study, henceforth I fall in love with the sound of "Ca Ca" and into the world which is full with black、white and gray, sketch, geometric shapes of all that I should not go into the self-conscious; the colourful red, orange, yellow, green, green, blue, purple lets me deeply into cannot extricate oneself, fall in love with use color to show what I saw. Entering university, I chose the major of fashion design, from my perspective, art is interlinked, only the style of expressing emotions are different I pursuit of art and love never slackened, with the growth of the age and the deepening understanding of art, I have my own understanding and analysis ability in art and artistic forms.

In my opinion, art is not something apart from us. It grows from capacities we all possess. If you have ever experienced something intensely and wanted to share that experience with others, you have been where art begins.

3. The nature of art

"Art isn't everything. It's just everything."

——Gertrude Stein

The domain of the visual arts is extensive. It ranges from drawing and painting to architec-ture and urban design, from making pots to making films and videos. It's primary concern is to open eyes and minds to the richness of the visual arts as unique forms of human experience, and to convey the idea that the arts enrich life best when we experience, understand, and enjoy

them as an integral part of the process of living.

Art, like life itself, need not be defined or understood to be enjoyed. It must simply be experienced.

3.1 What is art

Art is even harder to define than religion or science. No single definition is big enough. Originally, art meant “skill”, but now it means skill and much more. To many, the word art refers to something created by an artist—who is generally, thought to be a painter or sculptor. To others, art also includes anything done so well that it takes on special meaning, as the following dictionary definition suggests:

“art, n. 1. the quality, production, or expression of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance.” (C.L. Barnhart and Jess Stein, eds, *the American College Dictionary*, 1963)

A work of art is the aesthetic expression of an idea or experience, formed with human skills through the use of a medium. A medium is any material from which art is made. When a material or medium is used in such a way that the work contributes to our understanding or enjoyment of life, we experience the work as art.

When people speak of “the arts”, they are referring to music, dance, drama, literature, and the visual arts. What I focus on is the visual arts—drawing, painting, sculpture, filmmaking, architecture, and so forth. Each of the arts is a unique type of human activity, yet all of the arts grow from a universal human urge to give physical form to ideas, feelings, and experiences. Works of art that add to the experience of many people over a long period of time are considered masterpieces.

There are no absolute standards that can help you appraise the quality of a work of art. If it contributes to your experience, then it is probably art for you. This does not mean, however, that you should not consider other interpretations. Although teachers, authors, and art critics cannot determine your personal likes and dislikes in art, they can offer insights gained from their experience and involvement that provide new dimensions of perception and knowledge for your consideration.

In my view, it is best to approach art open, without bias. Given yourself time to react, and ask yourself questions “How does this work make me feel? Why does it make me feel this way? Did the person who made it have something particular in mind to which I call respond? How was it made? Does it relate to my personal experience in any way?”

As Charles Schulz suggests in his PEANUTS comic strip, art is ultimately whatever we think it is. Those who believe that the only “good” art was done in the past are unable to really see and enjoy much of the art of the present. It is human nature to like what you

understand or know. Knowing what you like is the beginning; knowing why you respond favorably or unfavorably to certain forms takes you that much further. Ideally, the dialogue between the viewer and work of art can go far beyond likes and dislikes.

Earlier societies, and even some contemporary traditional societies, do not separate art from the rest of life. Some societies do not even have a word for art. The Balinese simply say, “We have no art, we do everything as well as we can.” In such traditional societies, the arts document a long heritage of values and give form to spiritual life. In technological societies, however, we tend to think of art as an isolated entity, produced only by uniquely gifted people, most of whom are no longer living. This attitude is reinforced by the fact that we see most works of art in museums, far removed from the life experiences of the people who created them. Leading artists of the twentieth century have aggressively questioned and expanded arts traditional limits. They have introduced new languages of visual form which have profoundly influenced the material and imaginative life in our time. The entire spectrum of our visible world has been affected—from clothing, utensils, architecture, and automobile design to mass media. In this way, art is very much a part of everyday life. The avalanche of stylishly designed objects and images has itself become both media and subject for contemporary artists. For example, SITE Projects' use of automobiles and asphalt in GHOST PARKING LOT makes a humorous statement about our pervasive manufactured environment. Here we can see how art has the power to alter our relationship to objects and events outside ourselves, and to help us see them in fresh ways.

Above all the art of our culture reflects who we are and our relationship to our surroundings. As such, art can give us joy and inspiration and may also lead us to discover disturbing dimensions within ourselves. In the ugliness and distortion of some images, we may recognize some of our own negative or destructive aspects. Yet this very recognition can be an impetus for positive growth.

3.2 The necessity for art

Is it necessary for us to give physical form to things we feel, think, and imagine? Must we gesture, dance, draw, speak, sing, write, carve, paint, and build? To be fully human, it seems we must. The urge to make and enjoy what we now call art has been a driving force throughout human history. Every forward step has been highlighted with the invention of articles and images designed to sustain and celebrate life. Although the forms and functions of art change, humans continue to delight in using perception, thought, feeling, and manual skill to produce and enjoy an infinite variety of forms that extend and enrich experience.

Most of us feel compelled to share experience with

others. If an idea or experience is important to us, and we succeed in making it known to another person, we feel confirmed and strengthened by the success. If we fail to get the idea across, we feel frustrated and diminished.

All societies have produced objects and rituals that extend communication and meet their physical and spiritual needs. Some objects-from simple tools to vast temple complexes-have been designed to meet both physical and spiritual needs simultaneously. Traditional societies seldom distinguish between the practical function of an object and its spiritual and aesthetic significance. Within the context of the NAVAJO SAND PAINTING CEREMONY, healing, spiritual meaning, and aesthetic beauty are inseparable.

In order to understand and work with the elemental forces of nature, to appreciate and explore the mysteries of life, humans developed modes of inquiry and activity. In the West, we separate these into the disciplines of science, religion, philosophy, and art. The arts are but one facet of our attempt to relieve our fears and doubts by integrating the known and the unknown, the material and the spiritual. The finest works of art are a unity of spirit and matter; they remain "alive" regardless of when or where they were created. This is why even ancient art appears timeless, and continues to evoke responses from us today.

Every society values particular areas of human endeavor, and supports them with money and respect. Many earlier cultures we admire today, such as Renaissance Italy, gave support for, and thus had high achievement in, the arts. (During some of the lowest points in human history, such as Nazi Germany, the arts were severely censored.) The arts flourish, and leading

figures-seen as cultural heroes - emerge in proportion to the degree of support. In Renaissance Italy, artists were the leading heroes. Leonardo daVinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael achieved greatness partly because they had early recognition and strong encouragement in the form of education, training, and patronage.

Today's technologically explosive societies need the humanizing rewards of art. Science and the arts serve humanity in complementary ways, science seeks and finds answers to problems and questions related to our physical world, and forms the basis of our technology; the arts help foster our emotional, spiritual, and imaginative/creative growth, and help give viable, satisfying form to our physical environment.

4. Conclusion

Art offers us a way to go beyond mere physical existence. The ideas, values, and approaches that constitute the basis of the visual arts can continue to enrich our lives and surroundings. Art encourages and puts to good use our expanding awareness. We, the creatures with the most advanced consciousness, have been described as nature becoming aware of itself. We form art. Art forms us.

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