

Annotated Bibliography

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Vincent, D. (2020). *A History of Solitude*. John Wiley & Sons.

In *A History of Solitude* Vincent traces the evolution of solitude over the last three centuries. This broad study explores the presence of solitude in people's lives from the 18th century to the present times and its shifting meaning across time. It explores how solitude has been shaped by ever-changing societal attitudes, technological advances, and historical changes. Drawing from various literary and historical sources Vincent explores the reasons for the ambiguous approach towards solitude. The main argument of this book is that solitude is an incredibly complex and ever-evolving concept that cannot be ascribed as something either good or bad, without understanding where it lies in terms of its context. He also calls for a distinction between loneliness and solitude. Although this book focuses primarily on British history of solitude, and it does not have a direct connection with visual arts it does offer a broad range of historical as well as philosophical references that will be particularly useful in my study.

Stern, J., Sink, C.A., Wong Ping Ho and Malgorzata Walejko (2021). *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Solitude, Silence, and Loneliness*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

This handbook integrates broad research conducted on the topics of solitude, loneliness, and silence. The interdisciplinary approach of this book provides a comprehensive variety of academic studies from different fields such as psychology, philosophy, sociology, and arts. Similarly, as David Vincent's book, this work offers a historical and cultural perspective on how solitude has been perceived in various times. This book however focuses more on the international history of solitude drawing examples from other cultures and countries. It also holds some examples of solitude as an inspiration for artists, ranging from romantic to post-romantic and current period. It explores it as a means of expression as well as artists's condition that has been imposed upon them by societal and cultural changes. These two elements are the

main subjects of my research, so that part of the book will be valuable to my writing. It will give me a better understanding of how solitude was shaped by history and how that affects artist's creative process as well as their psyche.

Storr, A. (1988). *Solitude: A Return to the Self*. New York: Free Press.

Solitude by Anthony Storr is a notable example of a book that studies the psychological effects of solitude on an artist's mind. Storr himself was a psychologist and psychiatrist whose research focused on a variety of subjects related to human interpersonal relationships. In this book, Storr argues that human relationships are not the only key to success or happiness and that we should focus more on learning how to embrace solitude. This book offers a variety of case studies of writers, artists and composers and their creative process that was influenced by and executed in solitude. This shows the importance of solitude on well-being and personal growth. This leads to another interesting aspect of this work which is its focus on solitude's impact on one's introspective qualities. He argues that the ability to spend time on own is necessary to achieve a deeper level of self-awareness and it helps with processing emotions. Writing about artists' reasons for the need for solitude, this book provides me with some insight into the psychology of solitude and its implications on an artist's life. Although this book's main argument is the positive effects of solitude in our lives it also presents examples of how solitude can create or further increase mental health issues and promote anti-social behaviour. This is quite important to mention because solitude has dual effects, something that I would like to explore in one of my chapters on solitude as an artist's condition.

Bachelard, G. (1994). *The Poetics of Space*. Translated by M. Jolas. Boston: Beacon Press.

The Poetics of Space explores the human relationship with spaces, especially the intimate ones. This philosophical study explores the role in which those spaces shape our creativity, imagination, and sense of being. Although this book does not directly refer to solitude, Bachelard touches on this concept in the context of intimate spaces. As I am going to write about solitude as a means of expression this book is a great

crossover between how solitude can be expressed as a visual representation, but also how space can influence the creative process. In *The Poetics of Space* Bachelard uses spaces, such as home as a symbol and metaphor for the human psyche. Different rooms represent and trigger different emotions which result in a better understanding of self. This is similar to Storr's study of solitude and its connection to self-awareness and self-reflection.

Vaughan W. (1978). *Romantic Art*. Oxford University Press, USA.

This book is an insightful study of the Romantic movement, which originated in Europe in the 18th century and continued into the early 19th century. It presents a historical overview of how this movement came about as a reaction to the cultural and political changes. One of the main motifs of Romanticism was solitude. For artists it was both an inspiration for their visuals, but also a psychological state. Vaughan highlights how Romanticism was shaped by the turbulent and fast-evolving political situations in many countries. He analyses the work of some of the most important artists such as J.M.W. Turner or David Caspar Friedrich. Artists like them have seen nature as a powerful force that symbolises the state of human existence and emotions. Individualism and self-reliance were key themes of that movement.

This book is a relevant source of information on the early history of solitude as an artist's condition, means of expression as well as intention. Vaughan's book gives some examples of visual art that I can then use in my writing. It could also be a great introduction to a historical overview of solitude in the context of art, I can then create a link with *Bloomsbury's Handbook of Solitude, Loneliness and Silence* where they talk about post-romantic art and further evolution of solitude in arts in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It will allow me to study how solitude has been a long-evolving concept that has a new meaning in the current digital age. And how and if artists these days embrace the idea of solitude.