

## **Art and its Role in the Society**

### **Why do we dismiss art?**

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Throughout history, human beings have been expressing themselves through various forms of art. There is no specific definition of art, but various definitions have evolved over the previous years regarding art as a collection of human practices that depict a high degree of creativity in illustrating conceptual ideas, beauty, emotional power, and technical proficiency. Specifically, art serves to evoke people's desires, thoughts, intuitions, and emotions to illustrate their perception of the rest of the world. Therefore, art is a significant aspect of human life that enables people to depict their perception of the world, thereby relying on art as a form of expression that binds different people based on shared beliefs, thoughts, ideas, actions, and desires. Nonetheless, art has been disregarded in contemporary society as being integrated into all aspects of human culture and activity. The role of art in society has been diminished despite it being a crucial tool of expression in manifesting society's struggles and emotions and subsequently inspiring society to mitigate and outdo all obstacles. However, despite the fundamental roles undertaken by art in society, a proportional portion of the world believes that the world has distanced itself from art hence failing to obtain inspiration from art. This essay perceives art as anything that makes society happy; sports, games, movies, songs, dance, drawings, or even infrastructure.

Notably, art is highly subjective, with its meaning varying from one individual to another based on their perception of the world. Even though art is subjective, it is significant in society since it instills people with a high sense of creativity. Through creative means, society members can comfortably and effectively express themselves to the rest of the world without fear (Lindgren, 2020). Therefore, art is a practical medium of expression through which people can express their hear-felt thoughts, emotions, pain, desires, or reactions to the world. Considering that human beings

relate with the world through their five senses, art aims to invoke one or all of these senses to impact people at a personal level to obtain the anticipated meaning. Given that art is subjective, artists direct their art to specific audiences who share a significant proportion of their feelings and beliefs.

Glancing back through world history, the ancient recorded art forms are visual arts that were structured through visual media, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and painting. Additionally, architecture is always regarded as an ancient form of visual art that has survived the test of time since it is practiced even in modern society. Visual arts quest to evoked people's visual perception of the world by communicating to them through visual art, which they can observe and draw meaning (Reckwitz, 2018). Visual art is the most dominant and influential form of art. It can be decoded by all individuals considering that many people operate visually – render inferences based on what they see.

Art is intertwined with all human activities, impacting people both knowingly and unknowingly. Various forms of art can influence people's moods, beliefs, decisions, calmness, confidence, and overall perception of the world. Art is present everywhere, illustrating itself differently based on various features that distinguish people globally. Therefore, people identify a specific aspect of human life using specific art forms or even depict it in the manifestation of art based on their culture, language, religion, or gender, illustrating that art is individualistic. Importantly, art is timeless and ageless, enabling it to survive the test of time from one generation to another and remain relatable to everyone regardless of the perceived advancements.

Regardless of the numerous evolutions in art and its perception, it has remained relevant even in modern society, influencing people's way of life significantly. However, considering the changes faced by the world, art is no longer appreciated as it used to as people limit their time and

energy to economic activities through which they can earn a living from. Therefore, regardless of how amusing, entertaining, disturbing, delightful, unsettling, intriguing, or pleasurable it might be, if it can not enable people to earn a living, its role in society is belittled. Nonetheless, the role of art is undeniable even in the modern world since we need it to formulate novel reflections and thoughts regarding life.

However, modern art is significantly disliked since its artists are perceived to regularly push back boundaries, thus making people view it as a mere joke. Additionally, since many artists are driven by the desire to sell their art rather than communicate with the world through essential and high-quality arts, they produce undesirable work-making art lovers who appreciate arts that illustrate much effort and dislike them. Throughout history, art has evolved, losing its purpose in society as it has been perceived as an economic activity through which people can earn a living. Consequently, people fail to meet the essential art requirements to influence society and depict meaning. Therefore, improvements need to be enforced to reform the purpose of art and regain the initial purpose, which was to relate directly with society as a form of expression. As a result, modern artists need to incorporate meaning in their art to ensure that their audience is contented with the message that modern artists relay.

A thorough comparison between conventional art and contemporary art depicts that traditional art is primarily about the world while modern art is about the entire process of representation. Therefore, comprehending and undertaking some modern works of art calls for expertise since the purpose of art has changed. Notably, modern art is evaluated for quality based on its economic value in the market instead of through the degree to which it relates to the world. Therefore, many artists strive to make specific art forms, such as abstract arts, because they are unique in the market and attract a specific wealthy group of buyers. Based on this pattern, it is

explicit that art is no longer propelled by deep intuitions, beliefs, desires, or thoughts but is triggered by the results, which is the acquisition of enormous sums of money.

Based on the rate at which art has evolved from traditional to modern forms, the public strives to revolutionize it to regain some crucial historical aspects that have been eroded in the forming of modernist art. Some of the substantial variations between modern and traditional art lay in eliminating realistic illustrations in traditional art alongside experimentation and innovation with lines, colors, and shapes, making art phenomenal.

There are several art movements relating to modernist art, with the most influential expressionism, futurism, fauvism, impressionism, and Cubism. Surprisingly, arts that are currently perceived as modern art forms may not qualify as modern arts in the next fifty years due to advancements in the society and evolution of art – its nature and purpose. However, art does not evolve overnight but instead undergoes a gradual change losing and accumulating specific features and techniques. Modern art draws its origin from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which sparked significant changes in technology, transport, and manufacturing throughout America and Europe.

As a result, a massive rural-urban migration changed the people's way of life socially, economically, and politically. The demand for urban architecture rose drastically, resulting in an increased demand for applied art design and the eruption of a novel group of wealthy businesspeople majoring in the art collection. Following these tremendous changes, art museums were established during the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the harbor, protect and reveal art to the world especially priceless art forms that would typically get destroyed when left in public possession. Additionally, art has evolved in new materials, new types of art, expressive incorporation of color, and novel ways of making art, thus changing the art world entirely.

During the impressionism era, Claude Monet's landscape paintings were substantially exemplified. Specifically, impressionists majored on the seemingly impossible act of exhibiting the fleeting instances of color and light. Additionally, brushwork became incorporated mainly in the making of art, introducing myriads of non-naturalists color schemes. Secondly, the fauvism era art movement is significant in the evolution of art, which is often regarded as the fashionable style in Paris during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Tomas and Harmeling, 2020, pp 819-842). This movement is characterized by non-naturalist, garish, and vivid colors illustrating a significant degree of impressionism. This movement's primary contribution to the advancement of art emphasized the autonomous power of color. Another distinct art movement was Cubism which is regarded as the challenging and austere painting technique by introducing splintered planes in contrast to the rounded volumes and linear perspective.

Therefore, this movement was largely instrumental in the art world due to changing the domination of the flat picture plane, thus introducing more complex and remarkable techniques. Similarly, the futuristic movement was equally instrumental, with its primary emphasis on speed, automobile, scientific success, the airplane, and technology (Tomas and Harmeling, 2020, pp 819-842). This art movement revolutionized the art world by introducing new art objects in the world, which served to improve people's quality of life and maximize happiness. Its unique characteristics are multiple perspectives, and fragmented forms, with the movement's primary focus being to incorporate scientific development with beauty. Finally, the other significant art movement is expressionism, which emphasizes subjectivity in sculpture and painting works and subsequently fosters illustrating art that can correctly incorporate subjective variation.

Additionally, the British Arts and Crafts Movement propelled by William Morris was practically significant. Morris was a British poet, textile designer, translator, novelist, and social

activist who contributed substantially to the reformation of conventional British textile arts and production techniques (Boctor, 2017). Morris is famous for exploring mythical and emotional themes, affection for medieval ideals of chivalry, and naturalistic country gardens (Tomas and Harmeling, 2020, pp 819-842). A significant recurrence of birds, flowers, gardens, and forests is explicit in his art; these aspects render his work phenomenal and instrumental in the evolution of art. Currently, art has myriads of roles in modern society. It impacts the world through imparting values, reforming ideas, and unraveling and translating encounters across time and space. Art is significant in the modern world because it enables people to interact with each other regardless of their various features – gender, age, religion, social class, race, or ethnicity.

Additionally, given that art is timeless, current generations can relate with ancient and future generations through artistic forms (Tomas and Harmeling, 2020, pp 819-842). This occurs through translating experiences across time and space hence rendering other people to comprehend incidences as they are currently. Notably, art enables people to interact and communicate using symbols, sounds, images, and stories shared throughout the world hence developing a sense of shared meaning.

Current roles of art are the same as those undertaken by early art movements despite advancement in time. Contemporary art refers to any artwork created during the late twentieth century and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Specifically, contemporary art is the art movement that emerged after the modern art movement (Axford, 2019, pp 110). Throughout the evolution of art in its form and production techniques, art has remained a robust social tool in unifying people worldwide through shared beliefs and desires. As a result, art is relied upon in social service in unifying distinct communities and establishing a powerful sense of social unity, advanced child wellbeing, and emphasis on democracy. Additionally, it has helped significantly minimize poverty margins as

people earn a legitimate living by taking part in the production of various art forms such as dance, music, paintings, etc.

Also, art is instrumental in enabling people to visualize their dreams and imaginations by manifesting them through art. Despite being limited in reality, people can draw a significant amount of gratification from art where they get to live their imaginations by putting them in art form. For instance, through the Romeo and Juliet play as jotted down by Shakespeare, people can enjoy the fantasy of a perfect romance story and perceive themselves in the characters' shoes. Therefore, art enables people to act on their imaginations and establish a sensational and entertaining mood atmosphere. People may question the place of art in contemporary society, but the fact is that art is inalienable in human life. Regardless of the specific art forms, art is intertwined with all aspects of human life as it is essential in establishing a significant influence on an individual's emotions and mood. Art in its different forms impacts life positively, rendering people inspired, calmer, and happier than they were. As a result, people need art in their lives as a distinctive aspect of the culture responsible for structuring their thoughts and influencing them with informed comprehensions of their self-awareness, and emotions which form a fundamental aspect of their lives. Surprisingly, everyone relates with art habitually obtaining various kinds of satisfaction, improving their quality of life, and inspiration to undertake specific tasks that would typically be demoralizing to undertake. Based on the above argument, art serves to lift people's spirits, keeping them entertained and motivated regardless of the myriads of obstacles they encounter regularly.

Also, art forms such as literature, music, sculpture, and painting are crucial in influencing people's collective memory as they strive to recall such art pieces. Practically, the world cannot live without art. Nonetheless, art can exist on its own without being illustrated through various production techniques by artists. Art is nature and relates with human beings through the virtue of

being alive (Boctor, 2017). Through typical human interactions with others and society in general, art manifests itself in an unfathomable manner, rejuvenating people's moods and beliefs regarding society. Art results from this illustrated to be any object or work that illustrates creativity and arouses individuals' feelings, making them happy. Artists are highly talented since they can transform something irrelevant or typical and transform it into something outstanding that exhibits a distinguished feeling. Therefore, works and objects that qualify as arts should manifest a high creativity degree or influence people sensationally by triggering their feelings and emotions that make them happy. As depicted by William Morris, people should enjoy their lives by surrounding themselves with outstanding and beautiful perfectly-structured things that make them happy. Once individuals' surroundings are rejuvenating, it alienates them from extraordinary discomforts inalienable in life (Boctor, 2017). As a result, Morris advocated for the instrumental art and craft movement to ensure that people were surrounded by decorative objects and design; most of them were produced by Morris' company.

In conclusion, art remains a substantial aspect of human life that provides people with a unique platform to express themselves and comprehend the world. Through art designs such as dance, music, paintings, architecture, and sculpture, people find happiness that improves their quality of life and enables them to deal with their typical struggles. Notably, even though art forms and production techniques have changed, art's purpose is timeless and relates with all generations enabling them to relate with others across space and time. Art has changed society by motivating people to undertake challenging tasks, eradicate poverty, and remain happy since art evokes unique feelings and emotions. Additionally, art is subjective and illustrates distinct meaning among many people, making it unique in enabling people to relate regardless of varying disparities.

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