

Independent Inquiry

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Artistic Fame and Legacy

Introduction

By writing this paper, I want to explore the idea and gain a better understanding, of what it means to have a legacy and fame as an artist. When someone asks us to think of an artist, usually our first thoughts go to people like Leonardo Da Vinci or Vincent van Gough. Or maybe song artists, like Michael Jackson or Pink Floyd. Why is that? What makes these certain people stand out from the crowd of artists the world has experienced? What have they done to deserve that level of recognition? I also want to question myself. Do I want a legacy? Do I want to be famous and associated with certain works of art for the rest of time?

What is Legacy and Fame

When the word legacy is applied to a certain individual, it relates to the impression that that person left on people, places, and cultures around the world. The definition of legacy is: Anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor. Artists create works that will be in existence for the rest of time. Just like legends and stories these works are handed down from generation to generation enabling more and more people to experience them. Linking back to the idea of creating an impact in society, one person who sees some amazing piece of artwork will tell the next person and so on. This is how a legacy is created. A legacy is not ever experienced by the targeted individual; it is a prestige that is achieved once one has passed away. However, it is not there for the benefit of them but instead the benefit of others. Influencing the next generation of artists, inspiring new masterpieces and educating the global population.

Fame is different to legacy. Legacy is about leaving something behind. In comparison fame is all about the present. It is defined as: widespread reputation, especially of a favorable character; renown; public eminence. An individual can be famous in many ways. For example, an artist's fame can be gained by getting works of art out into the public eye. Fame spreads similarly to legacy, where people tell others about what they have seen, art being a prime example. Unlike legacy, fame is experienced by the targeted individual, being praised and in some cases worshipped. In most cases being famous benefits only that individual, but there is the opportunity to use it to influence and educate others just like a legacy can. These types of individuals are more likely to create a legacy as they are giving back to the world, creating an impact in society. A pleasing circularity, as the public is what made them famous, and their legacy is what can inspire the public to do something important. Gain fame and or create a legacy for themselves

Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci was born on 15th April 1452 near Florence. At the age of 14 he began a nine-year apprenticeship with Andrea del Verrocchio, an important figure in the world of art at the time. During this time Da Vinci developed skills in drawing sculpting and painting. He also gained extensive knowledge in concepts such as mechanics chemistry and architecture. This was a result of the people he was working around and with every day. He started by contributing to other art pieces in the studio of Verrocchio.

Once he left to start his own studio, Leonardo mainly created religious artwork. For example, The Virgin of the Rocks, The Last Supper, and many Madonna's (a representation of Mary alone or with the baby Jesus). However, he liked to sketch inventions human anatomy and landscapes. These were done as technical drawings with a great example being The Vitruvian Man. On top of his own work, he received many commissions. The most famous of these would be the Mona Lisa a commission from Francesco del Giocondo to paint his wife, which he started in 1503.

Leonardo Da Vinci spent the latter years of his life in France under King Francis I service, completing final works like St John the Baptist in his rural home in Cloux, Central France. He died on May 2nd, 1519, at the age of 67 from what is believed to be a stroke.

The reason why Leonardo stands out from the crowd of artists that have come and gone lies in the wide range of his knowledge and works. He didn't just stick to one style or subject for his art. No one since has produced work embracing Anatomy, Biology, Engineering, Architecture, Science and Religion. I think this is because in the modern day it is very hard to stand out and gain this level of recognition in just one genre let alone six! However, it is amazing that he managed to succeed with these diverse subjects, at the time religion was a very powerful force and getting on the wrong side could end with your death. Leonardo had to be careful with the work he produced, especially when the work concerned science.

If publicised when he was alive, Da Vinci's work would have, without question advanced the knowledge of the time. Unfortunately, he would have had a very hard time convincing the public due to the rigid religious beliefs at the time. This is the main reason why he didn't have very much fame when he was alive. The only fame he did experience was that from King Francis I who 'carried him away like a trophy'. This fame came towards the very end of his life but because it was from only one person, today he would not be very famous if at all.

Instead, Leonardo Da Vinci has an extraordinary legacy. This is down to his work. Much of his work was rediscovered many years after his death. Times had moved on to a point where science was widely accepted within society so most of his ideas had been thought of and embraced. It showed how forward thinking he really was! This is evident as other artists critics and historians at that praised him. The biographer known as "Anonimo Gaddiano" wrote, in 1540: "His genius was so rare and universal that it can be said that nature worked a miracle on his behalf..." Giorgio Vasari, in his Lives of the Artists (1568), opens his chapter on Leonardo:

“In the normal course of events many men and women are born with remarkable talents; but occasionally, in a way that transcends nature, a single person is marvellously endowed by Heaven with beauty, grace and talent in such abundance that he leaves other men far behind, all his actions seem inspired and indeed everything he does clearly comes from God rather than from human skill. Everyone acknowledged that this was true of Leonardo da Vinci, an artist of outstanding physical beauty, who displayed infinite grace in everything that he did and who cultivated his genius so brilliantly that all problems he studied he solved with ease.”

Even now 500 years after his death, this extraordinary individual ignites our imaginations with his paintings drawings and ideas that we are lucky enough to experience today. Leonardo makes us realise that if we ask difficult questions without being afraid to wonder what the answers can be; then, in the future, all things are possible!

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd is a psychedelic English rock band that was formed in 1965 and named after two Georgia bluesmen, Pink Anderson and Floyd Council. Members have included Syd Barret, Nick Mason, Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Richard Wright and Bob Klose. Their success as a band was down to their extended compositions, musical experimentation, philosophical lyrics and elaborate live shows. Many people say that they are not only the greatest psychedelic rock band ever but also the greatest band to have ever existed, me included! They gained massive success with the albums Dark Side of the Moon, The Wall, Wish You Were Here and Animals. The Wall was also turned into a musical due to its success and was awarded two BAFTAS; one for best sound and one for best original song, with Another Brick in the Wall. Pink Floyd was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. Subsequently, in 1999 and 2008 they were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for both Dark Side of the Moon and The Wall.

Dark Side of the Moon is considered to be their biggest success, with current total sales estimated at over 45 million copies worldwide. Debuting in 1973, it went straight to Number 1 in April. However, it only stayed there for 1 week but as of February 2020 it has been in the Official Charts for a total of 949 weeks. That adds up to 18 years and 3 months, a feat no one else has ever achieved with any album!

In terms of fame, Pink Floyd has become one of the most famous bands in history. With chart records as good as they have it would be very difficult not to be famous. Why are they famous? Why do they stand out? They stand out, as the content of their music is unlike anyone else. They tried things that no other artist would dare try and as a result found a unique sound that would lay the path for the psychedelic rock genre aswell as many sub genres.

Pink Floyd are not afraid of controversial and philosophical subjects. Their album Dark Side of the Moon is a masterpiece and further provides a reason for their acclaim. It is about certain ideals that can lead to a person's insanity and sense of a wasted life. This is a topic with which everyone can relate to and clearly did, as it

became one of the bestselling albums of all time. The album the wall cemented Pink Floyds fame

Their legacy stretches out worldwide and will continue to influence society and other artists forever.

Whilst paying tribute to member Syd Barrett, after he passed in 2006, David Bowie called him a significant inspiration, and The Edge of U2 bought his first delay pedal after hearing the opening guitar chords to "Dogs" from Animals. Queen and Radiohead has also cited Pink Floyd as being a influence on their careers

In 2008, the head rock and pop critic of The Guardian, Alexis Petridis, stated that the band occupy a unique place in progressive rock, writing, "Thirty years on, prog is still persona non grata. Only Pink Floyd—never really a prog band, their penchant for long songs and 'concepts' notwithstanding—are permitted into the 100 best album lists." Just shows that to him, even though he is not a fan of progressive rock, Pink Floyd have made such an impression on him and rock culture. He can make an exception when classifying the best albums rock has ever been graced with.

Battista Farina

Battista Farina was born 2 November 1893 in Torino, Italy. He was an Italian automotive designer responsible for linking Italy with fast, luxurious, and iconic cars. At the age of 12 he started working in his brother's body shop and this ignited his passion for automobiles. Here he stayed for many years learning skills needed for bodywork and design. When he was 27, he went to the United States as he was curious at the growth rate of Americas auto industry throughout the 1920s. Here he met Henry Ford who actually offered him a job. However, Farina declined, instead using the American ideas as inspiration to start his own business in 1930, Carrozzeria Pinin Farina.

In 1951, Battista's 1947 "Cisitalia was displayed in the New York Museum of Modern Art and classed as one of the most outstanding cars of the time. This would be the prime example that all post war cars would be designed to. Farina continued to work and lead his own company right up until his death in 1966 by which point his company was very well known and had close links with Ferrari.

Some manufactures he helped with design included Ferrari, Lancia, Alfa Romeo, Fiat and Maserati. The last car he was attributed to was, the 1600 Duetto for Alfa, which was seen by the public only a few months before his death.

Battista Farina experienced distinguished levels fame and has a large legacy.

Farina's fame was not world renowned and did not reach levels like many celebrities today. Instead, he was famous in the world of automation and art. With one of his cars being the first ever in an art museum, Farina was an undoubtedly special talent that deserved to be recognised. This was evident when he was still quite young. Even before he had his own company, characters like Henry Ford thought he was so good that he offered Farina a job on the spot, no questions asked. Even though he

declined, to be acknowledged by someone like Ford, an individual responsible for changing the way the whole automotive industry would work forever, is an outstanding achievement.

His legacy is boosted by the continued success of his company Pininfarina who are to this day still producing vehicle designs for major car companies around the world. Their most recent is a tribute to Battista. Manufactured completely independently by Automobili Pininfarina, the Pininfarina Battista is an electric sports car named after him, including certain design features as a homage to Farina. This is special as one of his main dreams was to produce a car design and manufactured solely by himself and his company, so it is fitting that his name bear the product of that dream. For a automotive designer, having a vehicle named after you is a huge honor. In my opinion there is no award that can match that level of recognition. Many aspiring car designers look to Pininfarina's designs and are inspired by the beauty and elegance of them. Automobili Pininfarina themselves describe Farina as "The Picasso of the automobile world."

My thoughts on the 3 artists

I think Leonardo Da Vinci was one of the greatest artists and minds that has ever lived. He is an artist that has contributed a lot to society. The reason I think he is one of the best ever is that he wasn't afraid. Leonardo came up with most of his amazing ideas about science and nature during a time when it was widely accepted that religion explained most concepts. He didn't stick to one genre or art form. This has educated me on all the possible ways to express my designs, painting, drawing, sculpting, models and also details notes.

In my opinion Pink Floyd is one of, if not the best group of musical artists there has ever been. Just from listening to their albums Dark Side of the Moon and The Wall made me realise the potential of myself. My favourite song is Time (Floyd, 1974). The reason for this is that it tells us that the only person who can help ourselves is ourselves. When you are young you think that you have unlimited time and pass off things without doing them. And then before you know it you are too old and you can't do those things anymore, and you regret passing up all those opportunities. The verse "And you run, and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking. Racing around to come up behind you again. The sun is the same in a relative way but you're older. Shorter of breath and one day closer to death" indicates, that just like us, the sun is getting older. However, it ages slower than us humans, so every day it's relatively the same, whereas in a matter of days humans can change dramatically. Additionally, it represents someone chasing after the sun, trying to get their time back. Unfortunately, it's too late, and the sun rises again and they're just older, despite all of their efforts to cheat time and catch up with the sun. Without Pink Floyd's fame and legacy, I would have never discovered them. They would have never motivated me in the way they do, and I know that I for sure would "Fritter and waste the hours in an offhand way".

Unlike the previous to artists, Battista Farina is closely related to my chosen career path. I am heavily inspired and in awe of the legacy of this marvelous automotive designer. I am especially interested in the way that he conducted himself throughout his career. Not once did he directly work for a large popular automotive manufacturer. Alternatively, by spending time under his brother's wing, learning the trade whilst staying humble, it made him grateful when opportunities arose for him to design even the smallest of parts. I don't believe, in the same position, I would turn down an opportunity to work for Henry Ford. That's the difference, he is an innovative individual born to lead by example using his own ideas and beliefs. Farina took his experiences and created a car design institution that is still carrying on his legacy to this day. As a result, when I think of exquisite car design my mind is almost always drawn to just Pininfarina.

Do I want fame? Do I want a legacy?

I don't want extortionate levels of fame. I do believe that everyone does want at least a tiny bit of fame in some way. We all aspire to be successful, and most people's idea of success include popularity and recognition of our achievements.

What advantages come with being famous?

First of all, being famous generally means that you are going to be wealthier. Being wealthier leads to a more enjoyable and relaxed lifestyle being able to buy what you want when you want. Dreams that you thought were impossible can now happen. For example, buying a house, cars and going on lavish holidays.

Celebrities will receive special treatment. Their reputation means that everywhere they go, life will be made easy for them. Queue jumping, having venues like cinemas to themselves and exceptional service at restaurants, are just some of the perks celebrities can expect when interacting with the public.

Popularity indicates that people like you. Fans can be a great addition to a celebrity's life. There will definitely be an ego boost knowing that people are looking up to you and being inspired. If you can engage with your fans and ignite their imagination, you can be proud of yourself knowing that you have just changed that individual's life. If provided with the right platform a celebrity can promote certain talents and kickstart careers. The fact that being famous provides you with a voice that will be heard, means that you can be the voice for the voiceless. If you choose to, you can use your fame to raise awareness of issues around the world, knowing you'll be listened to.

Finally, fame can bring perks. Due to a large following from fans, there is a lot of attention placed upon celebrities. Brands will therefore try to be associated with them in order for them to gain exposure with the public. Consequently, this will leave you with free products gifted to you. However, in my opinion, if I were in that situation, I would only endorse products that I truly believed in and actually thought were innovative ideas. Otherwise, I feel that the companies would then be trying to exploit

the popularity of the celebrity's image if they promoted everything that lands at their feet!

What are the disadvantages of being famous?

With high levels of fame comes the problem of not being able to lead a normal life. Due to being recognised all the time wherever you go there will be no escape. Activities normal people can do with no problem will become impossible. Simple things like taking a walk in the park, going out for a meal with your family and even going to the supermarket will now come with a multitude of problems. The unfortunate solution means that you will most likely spend your life in a secluded bubble and have other people do tasks for you, like getting shopping.

Problems occur when you try and make friends. As most celebrities have high popularity and wealth, people will want to get close to you to gain some of that acclaim for themselves. Now it becomes difficult when picking out the individuals who actually like you and the ones who are after your fame. Trust issues can develop and if you had few friends before you came famous there is the high risk of spending your success alone. Any friends that were there before a celebrity's stardom can be lost as they fell left behind and forgotten.

The pressure of fame comes in many forms. One of these is judgement on every little action taken and word spoken. Being in the public eye, having attention cast in your direction 24/7, means that in order to protect your image that you have worked hard to build, extra care is needed. Social media is a very dangerous place for celebrities because it is way too easy for certain individuals, who may not have a positive opinion of you, to "cancel" you. They will try and pick out the tiniest details of your life and spin it to make it seem like you are the worst person on the planet.

Due to high levels of exposure, privacy comes at a premium. Fans want to know what you are doing in your personal life. Paparazzi will follow you everywhere in order to get that exclusive picture and sell it to the media. Everyone will try and feed off your fame. Lack of privacy can take a toll on people, with many celebrities not liking the fact that they're looking over their shoulder whenever they want to enjoy themselves. Subsequently it can start to mess with your head. Anxiety can increase making you highly self-conscious and stressed. Ultimately that is not a healthy lifestyle with the worst-case scenario leading to serious harm and or death.

I would prefer a legacy to fame. I feel that if I am ever in a situation where being famous is not avoidable, then I will want to be anonymous. That way I can still enjoy all the benefits of being famous but without all the negative aspects. Being on the shy side, I know I will not cope at all well, being in the limelight scares me. My idea of a happy life does not include being harassed on a daily basis, anxiety taking over my mind and being alone.

A legacy on the other hand is very attractive. I want my work and ideals to inspire and educate others in order to improve society and make the world a better place. Preferably I would like my career to take me into the automotive industry. What if I could create a vehicle that could change the face of automation. Just like Leonardo Da Vinci thought of ideas that could have changed the way of life, what if my legacy,

was the person who changed the way humans travelled around the planet. I would be remembered forever, and people will look at me and think he did it, why can't I; in the same way I was inspired by Leonardo Pink Floyd and Pinin Farina.

Conclusion

Fame and legacy are very different.

Fame is experienced by the artist. They get to experience people discovering their work, watching as their efforts turn into rewards. They benefit firsthand, gaining popularity, wealth and recognition.

Some artists receive fame at different levels. Leonardo Da Vinci didn't experience fame at all. The only slight recognition he got when he was alive, was from King Francis I of France. He thought Leonardo was a genius and employed him to create works just as Da Vinci was coming to the end of his life. Due to the time period, even though he had recognition from a king, word didn't spread fast so little fame was achieved.

At a higher level of fame, comes Battista Farina. Farina experienced a slow growth of fame throughout his life and career. He started off relatively unknown, working in his brother's firm. By his mid-20s his talent gained the attention of Henry Ford; but just like Leonardo this didn't mean much to the public. However, things took a dramatic positive turn towards the end of his career. As a result of a successful partnership between his own company and Ferrari, the automotive world and the public, started to take notice. He was helped massively when one of his cars was the first to be placed in the New York Museum of Modern art, thus placing him at the forefront of modern car design.

Finally, Pink Floyd reached global fame almost instantaneously. Formed in 1965, their first major successful album came after only 2 years when The Piper at the Gates of Dawn released in 1967 reached Number 6 in the UK and stayed there for 14 weeks. Things only got better as The Dark Side of the Moon charted highly throughout Europe and the US in 1973. This album has gone on to become one of the best selling in history, with 45 million copies sold worldwide! Pink Floyd rose to stardom very quickly and have stayed at the forefront of rock folklore for 55 years.

On the other hand, these artists have similar influence on society when it comes to their legacies. A legacy is not usually experienced by the artist when they are at the height of their career. A legacy is the impression that a group or individual has left on people places and cultures.

For these 3 artists in particular, in my opinion not one has a bigger legacy than the other.

Leonardo Da Vinci has many paintings that are viewed millions of times a year, dotted all around the globe. For example, people will come from the other side of the world if they have to view works like the Mona Lisa, that is displayed in the Louvre in

Paris. For 500 years Da Vinci has captured the hearts and minds of everyone, inspiring educating and motivating all who experience any one of his masterpieces.

Pinin Farina paved the way for modern car design, producing a legacy that is one of passion, beauty, and precision. Any aspiring vehicle designers, sculptors and engineers will undoubtedly at some point turn to his work for guidance and inspiration. With his company producing cars for almost every major automotive institution Pininfarina continues to embody the same principles Battista did when he started the company. To top it off, the most recent work of elegance to appear out of the company, has been named in his honor. There is no greater award to show an automotive designer's true influence on car culture!

An artist with a fairly young legacy would be Pink Floyd. However just because they haven't been around for as long as Leonardo Da Vinci or Battista Farina, doesn't mean their legacy isn't as strong. Outside of my chosen career path, I feel that Pink Floyd have inspired and motivated me the most. This down to their unique songwriting and musical talents. The lyrical content of their music enables any who listen to it to relate in some way. I think about the extraordinary piece of work that is Time on a daily basis. It is definitely what gets me out of bed on mornings where I don't want to do anything. If an individual, or in this case a group of individuals, can do that to you on a daily basis, then without question they will have a strong legacy for the rest of time.

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