**Art’s Role Within Our World**

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**Art’s Role**

“What is an artist, but the servant of the people?” These were Pope Julius II’s words when addressing Michelangelo in the film, “The Agony and the Ecstasy.” Really, but what role does an artist play but serving people’s demand for entertainment? Well, art may exist as a major part of our society today because of our demand for visual, kinetic, and auditory stimuli; but art serves many other functions as well. Functions such as recording a scene in nature, capturing someone’s portrait, simple expressions of creativity, to even describing a murder suspect. The artists behind these works of art are just people who may or may not be good at their craft, but meet humanity’s demand.

When most people think of “Art” they think of a painter, a canvas, paint brushes, and popular works of art, that is the Mona Lisa. This generic view of art is dramatically understated. Art can be interpreted as many things. Could not someone argue that a sunset is a work of art? No human participated in the creation of the sunset, or nature in that manner, but nature in its entirety is truly artistic. In “A River Runs Through It,” Norman Maclean had explained how the sunset was suspended like a work of art. The constant cycle of night and day, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, is truly captivating to someone who inquires.

When exploring the uncharted western American lands, Louis and Clark drew pictures of plants and species they were just seeing. The pictures in their journals were art in their own way. They introduced new things, in the name of science, to people back East who had never seen anything like them. Recording events through drawing and things used to be a very useful form of art. Cavemen were kin to Louis and Clark in that they drew pictures on stone of animals and things they saw, perhaps simply to display interesting and bizarre things they had encountered.

Without Art our world would be very dull. Art’s role is to occupy our time (whether it leisure or work) in order to satisfy people’s demand. In truth, we would be much more productive without art occupying us, but we succumb to pass times such as watching movies, playing games, listening to music, etc. Art is also a very competitive field- on local and global scales. America is a global leader in art; American celebrities, music, and movies have a hold on nations’ media around the world. Maybe it’s the fact we have a functioning democracy or that we’re a wealthier country that allows so many artists and works of art to originate in the United States. However, there is a lot of competing and many artists never reach stardom. Singapore, France, the UK, Japan, China, Italy, even Turkey harbor developers of art who contribute to the modern global arena.

Authors are artists in their own way. J.K. Rowling has made millions off the Harry Potter franchise. The book’s plot is centered around a wizard set in a fantasy world involving witchcraft. The books and movies are all very entertaining now, but at one point witchcraft was not smiled upon. The Salem Witch Trials accused many people of practicing the *art* of witchcraft. Fueled by religion and superstition, unfortunately, the trials ended with the hangings of people convicted of the “invisible crime” of witchcraft. Although, witchcraft is easily arguable as a form of art.

In, “A River Runs Through It,” Mr. Maclean told his sons that, “All things come by grace, grace comes by art, and art isn’t easy to come by.” The creative aspect of art is probably the most important and elusive. An artist also describes a performer of music, and artists rely on originality and catchy tunes to generate listeners, and in the end income. All music is an arrangement of notes and pitches of sound that may be combined with lyrics, which an artist formulates into a catchy tune which people enjoy. There aren’t an infinite number of arrangements of sound, and perhaps in the future new tunes will be harder to come by.

There are many movies, and some almost no one has seen because they either lacked budget, creativity, or support. There are also many movies which a good portion of people on the planet have seen. In example, the Star Wars franchise is globally renown. Its creators took inspiration from many real world things, and it inspired and captivated many people around the planet in the same way.

Last month Jet Li was interviewed as a part of CNN’s Talk Asia. During the interview he described the Oscar-nominated film “Hero.” He said, “the film is filled with color, everything is pretty, even killing people is very beautiful.” As comical as it is, lots of action in media dramatizes killing people, and millions of people love watching it. For instance, why would someone find the movie, “American Gangster” in any way entertaining if they left out the killing, drama, and tension. Millions of people play games every day, and almost all of the major hits involve killing in some way. As Jet Li said, “no one thinks about the suffering that surrounds death itself,” but we still enjoy the thrill and action that cinema et cetera provide.

An Art is also explained as being a discipline which someone practices. The art of fishing holds many aspects people are able to connect with. The art of playing the guitar is also widely practiced. It’s popularity perhaps more than fishing, but the purpose someone does either has similarities. Participating and enjoying the art, and receiving an end result. In fishing, being outdoors and involved with nature, and catching a fish and eating it. In playing the guitar, practicing chords, and producing a good sound. Artoc Investment Agency runs a commercial that claims that, “Investing is an art,” and follows this with a montage, “The art of exploring new opportunities and discovering new horizons, The art of creativity… The art of success.” This is a very clever commercial, claiming through investing you become a patron of many diverse things. This proves that even advertising is an art.

In the future when technology advances all around the world, creativity will be a commodity which everyone will strive to attain. Avenues of sharing information will grow wider, and even more ideas and people will become connected. DoDDSE students still require one fine arts credit to graduate. This is some indication of how art is a part of our world. Whether art will remain as important as it today can be debated. Though, today it remains very important and its impact is wide spread.

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