

Prompt:

What are the different types of **knowledge** that can be gained through artistic experience?

Please compare **the types of knowledge** gained by the reader (literature), viewer (graphic arts, film), listener (music), the spectator (theatre, dance) **and the types of knowledge** gained by the writer, graphic artist, film-maker, musician/singer, actor/dancer.

Please give **real-life examples** from your own experience as an IB student.

(200 words minimum)

Art is an important media of communication of personal emotions as well as serves as a record of human history and culture. Overall, art maker gain knowledge through the process, which is a combination of Ways of Knowing like imagination and emotion and Area of Knowledge in Arts. Meanwhile, the receiver of art can learn through sense & perception as a media, as well as memory in recall of history as an Area of Knowledge.

First of all, for the artist, making a piece of artwork is the combination of imagination and emotion in the Area of Knowledge of Arts. For example, when I am composing a soliloquy in English A Lang & Lit class, I need to use my imagination and creativity to make decisions. First I need to consider what I am going to write about and why I write about this. If I chose to write about the emotional departure from the school in light of Covid 19, I then need to decide what emotion I want to express to my readers, and what emotion I want to evoke in my readers. After deciding these general guid lines, I will work on how to use stylistic and literary choices to convey its meaning. One of the best ways is imagination, or what is specified in the language of literature stylistic devices, like metaphor, hyperbole, analogy, etc. These devices are effective means to link the emotion with the current event using imagination. An example would be my description of the community as a hotpot — to illustrate its diversity, unity, and one part of my identity. Composed of imaginative languages like this, I put a lot of emotions like nostalgia, sadness, love, and regret into this work of art. Through this process, I can better understand about these techniques that my English teacher talked about in class when I am using it by myself.

For the viewer, it is first important for them to perceive the work and sense the meanings behind it, or “visual analysis.” After that, it is also crucial for the viewers to put the artwork into historical and cultural context in order to understand better, in other words, an “historical analysis.” For example, when I view Goya’s *Third of May, 1808*, the first Way of Knowing I must employ is sense and perception. With my eyes I understand is that the artist decided to make a large painting, which tells me something about the artist’s ambition for the work of art. It is oil paint on canvas, not water color, which implies that it is a substantial work of art, by my memory as a Way of Knowing. Then I would notice the extreme contrast of light and dark, which gives me the tonal value of the painting. And then, following the directions of the

guns, I understand that the artist is drawing my eyes toward the figure in white with his hands outstretched, entrapped. Besides, the hillside and diagonal lines create an illusion of dimensionality for the viewer. All these cannot be concluded without sense or perception. At the same time, as a painting in 1814, it aims to reflect the political unrest. Using memory, I can recall that at that time, Napoleon Bonaparte is on the throne in France and is asserting his power throughout Europe, including Spain, where the painting took place. There was a popular uprising against the French occupation of Spain. That event is just the day before, May 2nd. As a result, the French shot innocent people in Madrid. Only with Area of Knowledge of History can I understand what this painting commemorates: a brute murder by colonizers. Now we understand better why Goya would put this innocent people in a gesture so similar to that of Christ on the cross. This clearly gives me Goya's personal position regarding this event. It is a emotional, individualized response, as well as a reveal of the historical fact.

In conclusion, to answer the knowledge question, both the viewer and the creator of art gains through artistic experience by multiple means of Ways of Knowing like Sense & Perception, emotion, memory, and imagination, as well as Areas of knowledge like History and Arts. This conclusion gives us important implication of the value of arts in human society as a way of learning.