

### **Personal Insights on “Why the Arts Should Matter”**

Before reading Dr. Jose Dalisay Jr.’s “Why the arts should matter,” I already held the belief that art is a medium where a message can be conveyed. For me, art has always been about storytelling. Whether it comes in the form of a painting, a poem, a film, or a song, art tells a story, and every story eventually leads to an ending. It is not just about what we see or hear, but about the journey it takes us on. The listener, the watcher, or the feeler experiences emotions, meanings, and lessons along the way. This is why I thought art was important, it gives people the chance to relate and to go on a journey they might not otherwise experience in real life.

After reading the article, my understanding of art became deeper. Dr. Dalisay explained that the arts and humanities allow us to “govern ourselves wisely.” This struck me because I had never really thought of art as something that could guide society or help shape decisions. I always saw it as personal, but now I realize it also plays a collective role. Art helps us create a shared story as a nation, one that defines our values, dreams, and direction. Science and technology can give us tools to build the future, but without the arts, we might not even know what kind of future we want. That made me see art not just as a personal journey, but also as a national journey.

Another new insight I gained is the economic importance of the arts. I was surprised when Dr. Dalisay mentioned how creative industries like film, design, publishing, and even animation contribute billions to our economy and provide jobs for many Filipinos. I honestly used to think that pursuing the arts was “less practical” compared to other fields. But learning that the arts play such a big role in employment and GDP really changed my perspective. Now I see that art is not only good for the soul but also for the body, it feeds our culture and helps sustain our livelihood as a nation.

I also reflected on how society often gives less value to the arts compared to sports, politics, or entertainment. Dr. Dalisay pointed out that we often praise athletes, celebrities, or even beauty queens, while our National Artists and Scientists stay in the background. This made me realize that our priorities might be misplaced. If we gave more recognition and support to the arts, maybe more people would see them as something worth pursuing, not just as hobbies but as serious contributions to nation-building.

In the end, this article did not erase my old belief that art is about stories and journeys. Instead, it strengthened it and gave it new meaning. Art still tells stories, but now I see that these stories are not only individual ones; they are also collective, national stories that help us define who we are and where we want to go. Art still takes us on journeys, but those journeys are not only personal; they also lead us to relate, to imagine the future of our country. My biggest learning is that the arts truly matter, not just because they move our hearts, but because they shape our humanity, our economy, and our identity.

## **References**

Dalisay Jr, Jose. (2018, January 19). Sanghaya, Why the arts should matter. Retrieved from <http://sanghaya.net.ph/welcome/2018/01/19/art-should-matter/>