**[[1]](#footnote-1)Evolution of Human Artistic Creativity**

(Article length: 182 words)

Art is a wonderfully enjoyable aspect of human culture but not essential to survival, so why did artistic creativity arise? A key phrase that has been used in this article, and which is commonplace in our description of everyday experience, is ‘the mind’s eye’. In addition to the functional application of this facility in tool-making, it would have had an important survival function in hunting. The long-distance runner Bernt Heinrich, in his book ‘Racing the Antelope’ (Heinrich, 2001), points out that when animals hunt they give up the chase when the prey disappears from view; humans, however, know that an animal that has disappeared over the horizon or behind a group of rocks is still there to be followed. The neural changes that provided our ancestors with the imagination to understand, through logic, the continued existence of something that is no longer visible, together with the anatomical attributes that enabled them to outrun prey over long distances, would have had a genuine evolutionary advantage. Without these survival-enhancing functional origins, it is unlikely that we would have the neural equipment to create art.

1. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2815939/pdf/joa0216-0158.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)