

In the story Balthazar's Marvelous Afternoon, the author Gabriel Garcia Marquez deals with the themes art for art's sake, greed versus generosity, and, an solitude. Written as magic reality (a type of fiction, where fantasy and reality are discussed in the same stream of thought), the story depicts that art is an envoy that carries many messages. This story, has been taken from Big Mama's Funeral.

In this story, like any other town, the society is stratified with respect to position, wealth and education. Balthazar being a poor carpenter, is placed on the lower rungs of this ladder, but through his skill ~~demand~~, he is worthy of respect in the society. His only claim to fame is his life long ability to make bird cages. In the story, he creates one such marvelous, extraordinarily huge and beautiful cage, which is desired by one and all, and instead of selling it (he very well knew that this single piece could turn his fortunes), he gifts it to a true connoisseur of art. He thus reached crescendo of his artistic career when he received gratitude, respect, applauses and when praises were showered upon him for his magnum opus. The story also show that ~~the~~ ^{rich} who are often assumed to be patrons and sponsors of art are

callow hearted who donot even have love for their
kids. Art has a powerful authority and ^{but} is often
prerogative of the wealthy. By gifting such a precious
creation to the son of city's one of the town's
most wealthiest person (who is a bit of a tightwad),
and is quite capable of buying it), Balthazar clearly
embarrasses Chepe Montiel. Thus by his manipulative
actions, the protagonist manages to garner respect in the
society, albeit negative financial rewards. The satisfaction
and happiness he got through such an act was
clearly visible in his celebrations, for even to the
point of losing his respect in the society and he
instead sought to live his moment of life to the
fullest, which would have otherwise continued its
monotonous doldrums. The author thus justifies that art
and money have got nothing to do with one another.