

## Weekly Assignment 6. The Expression Theory of Art

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6. *Present the expression theory of art and at least one of the problems it faces.*

The expression theory of art demonstrates that art is employed as an approach for communication of emotion by artists. According to the expression theory of art, the main purpose for artists to create artworks is to convey particular emotions to the audience. They apply various techniques and try to arouse certain emotions in the audience, and our emotion during the appreciation of a certain artwork is consistent with what the artist has experienced during the creation process. In other words, the artist externalizes his or her inner emotion in the artwork to make us feel exactly the same. Therefore, the essence of appreciation process is to feel the underlying emotion conveyed by the artwork, and the expressiveness of artworks depends on the emotion felt by the artist in the creation.

There are a number of problems that the expression theory of art faces, and one of which is stated below. The expression theory demonstrates that the essence of the appreciation of art is to experience the emotion conveyed by the artist that he or she once felt, but there are various ways for us to feel a certain emotion, and the value of art is deconstructed if we adopt the expression theory of art according to which artworks are nothing but tools just like roller coasters and carrousels in an amusement park. It's unlikely for the expression of art to fix this problem.