

DISCUSSION 4

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Appiah, Kwame Anthony. "Whose Culture Is It, Anyway?" in *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*, 115-135, 179-180. New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.

This article is about the ownership of artwork. The main debate of the author is if art should belong to the nation of origin, or if it belongs to humanity as a whole. And if it belongs to the nation, which nation is that. Since most nations have since collapsed, then the modern nation that resides in the same reason has had nothing directly to do with the art, so what gives them additional power of control over the art. The author concludes that there is not much of a better way of managing ownership, than to uses the land that it was discovered on.

A second main point of the article is if art that has already been stolen or removed from a nation, by either legal or illegal means, should be returned. The author believes that not all of it should be returned. This was primarily to diversify the worlds artistic knowledge, and provide people around the world with the aspects of one cultures artwork.

I found that I really agreed with the author. I think that art should be distributed around the world. Imagine if one wanted to seem Greek sculpture or pottery, and the only place in the world was in greece. I think that would be absurd, every culture possesses the most knowledge about their own culture, and should share that culture with the rest of the world, to educate other populations about their history.

I understand the importance of the finances of art, but personally I feel that it is exceedingly important to share artwork with different cultures, so that everyone can achieve some insight into the past.

Are there any incentives to bring stolen artwork out of private collections, so that they may be enjoyed by a wider population?

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