

Thesis



Art has always played an important role in the life of societies. It is believed that the concept of art encapsulates all beauty that was made to endure. Art helps to continue on believing that there is another way to exist – a life of peace, plenty, harmony, beauty, and virtue. At the same time, in the world where either personal instincts and motives or social conventions dictate how to live, it is particularly important to provoke the thought within the audience. The primary value of art consists in a fact that it can help people to move on with their lives and become better individuals; arts are important as both a means of escape from reality and as a way to change the “real world” for better.

Harmony is counted among the primary values of art. Harmoniousness is something that makes a good work of art. Harmoniousness within a work of art occurs when the content and formal expression complement each other. Nowadays, art is literally everywhere. This premise is based on the fact that creativity, as a rule, seeks self-expression. Consequently, the qualities as follows can be viewed as the primary values of arts. First of all, one of the most beautiful and stunning things about art is artists’ capability of being topical and relatable. Topicality and responsiveness of art partly consists in a fact that artist themselves leave some loopholes, a certain amount of implied meanings. The presence of a certain amount of implied meanings leaves as much cognitive space for a recipient as possible. A

work of art provokes the thought, as a result, and earns the audience an experience other than the one that persons may (or even may not) have in their lives. Developing this statement further, one can assume that art is capable of curing the minds and souls of men. Art therapy, in my opinion, is an important point to ponder as it makes sense for both, an artist and the audience. Evidently, many people encounter unspeakable situations, the consequences of which are difficult to bear and to cure. The mission of artist, in this case, is to make an attempt to understand how a recipient feels, guide them through this pain, and help them to move on with their lives. In this respect, it is possible to presume with utter surety that the purpose of art is to teach people how to live and by so doing, to minimize the casualties. The point here is that there is a very little hope that beauty and art might change the world for better. Besides, it cannot be denied arts can help someone to live through the hard times. Theater in particular embraces nearly all forms of art, specifically the following: performing arts, music, literature, choreography, design, and (partly) fine arts. All the inferences made by Arlene Goldbard are built on that particular premise. Theater, as the quintessence of all forms of art, can be viewed as a means of escape from reality and, at the same time, a way to change the world for better. It happened so mainly because theater has always kept abreast of the situation in the states' social, political and economic life. "...deepest social transformations are grounded in the deepest individual epiphanies, artists have persisted in making theater to change the world". Traditional ways of transforming society have proved themselves to be of a very little efficacy. "... people look to their own experience, and for most of us, many life-changing moments have been encounters with art ...". All in all, Arlene Goldbard in her essay argues that arts are important not as just the means

of escaping from reality. Arts are a means of changing the real world, the objective reality, as very often arts function as a factor that shapes the lives of people. At the same time, the author shows that state should not interfere with arts. Authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, with regard to this, can be viewed as, perhaps, the brightest examples of how negative (at times, fatal) state's control of culture is.

Music was once capable of transforming societies and persons' inner world. Nineteen-sixtieths and the early nineteen-seventieths are reputed as a period when free thought, equality, and liberty thrived. Arts were considered a means of promoting the aforementioned ideals. John Seabrook addresses concert (rock shows in particular) as a form of entertainment that enjoyed its popularity among younger generations predominantly at that time, the late nineteen-sixtieths and the early nineteen-seventieths. Building on John Seabrook's article, it is possible to assume that through arts, society formed into a holistic unity. Racial, ethnical, and gender differences did not mean to people as much at that time as they do now. Developing this statement further, it worth to admit that globalization and tendencies towards multiculturalism proved themselves to be the distinctive features of the modern world. By and large, stagnation of arts is caused by the rapid development of science and technology. John Seabrook's point is, above all else, that music as a form of art is stagnating. Specifically, the author states that: "as the top-grossing touring acts ... get older, very few younger acts are popular enough to fill stadiums and arenas on the two-year-long tours that superstar rock bands undertake". The aforementioned statement can be viewed as rather an astute observation for the companies promoting

singers and music groups, as well as the ones that organize concerts, are concerned with the tickets' drops in sales. Drops in the tickets' sales can be viewed as one of the consequences of crucial artistic issues. However, one of the most important contributing factors, in this respect, is the individual preferences of the audience. In addition to that, what the producers, musicians, songwriters, composers, and arrangers did in the nineteen-sixtieths, differs fundamentally from the music made these days. Not that contemporary rock music and popular culture were better or worse than their respective predecessors. Each of these simply positions itself as separate entity. Therefore, comparing the qualities of these particular entities is undesirable. The fact is that a great amount of people perceive information through auditory channel, that is to say, through sound and hearing. For persons like that the difference between genres, forms, and stylistic peculiarities (mostly, the ones that are dictated by time) of a piece of music is self-evident.

All things considered, both art and culture are abstract notions by nature. Furthermore, there is distinct and crucial difference between both notions. Art takes special place in the modern world. Even though technologies supersede arts, the importance of arts consists in the idea that a work of art can shape real lives. Arts can be regarded as a means of transforming societies, individuals, and the world at large. It is in a nature of a man to aspire for beauty. Creativity, on the other hand, is a powerful force by all means. Topicality, responsiveness, originality, and capacity to provoke the thought are the primary values of arts. These values in particular help to find a balance between the plane of form and the plane of expression. Balance between the plane of form and the plane of expression is within a

work of art indicates the the work of art itself is a harmonious whole. Lastly, being an artist suggests that one possesses some qualities that make them capable of employing effectively the expressive means of the respective form of art. Being a good artist means that with the help of the qualities they posses, they are capable of soothing the pain and curing the souls.