





The Meaning and Importance of Art

The term *Humanities* refers to the arts—the visual arts such as architecture, painting, and sculpture; the performing arts such as music, dance, theatre or drama, and literature. They are the branches of

- Art comes from the Italian word, *artis*, which means “craftsmanship, skill, mastery of form, inventiveness, and the association that exist between form and ideas and between material and techniques.
- From the Aryan root *ar* which means “to join” or “put together”
- From the Greek words “artizein”, which means to “prepare”, and *arkiskein*, meaning “put together”.



- Art is very important in our lives as it is concerned with the communication of certain ideas and feelings by means of a sensuous medium- color, sound, bronze, marble words, and film.
- The subject of art is varied. Some are representational; others are non representational, non-objective, or abstract.
- All arts have functions for people since they satisfy particular needs of people.



- Visual Arts or space arts are those that we perceive with our eye and which occupy space.
- Auditory or time arts are those that can be heard and are expressed in time.
- Combined arts are those that can be both seen and heard and exist in both space and time



Nature of Art



Art is very important in our lives. It constitutes one of the oldest and most important means of expression developed by man. Art has been existent since men have lived together. In fact, in nearly every country, art can be found in primitive societies. Art has been created by all people at all times; it has lived because it is liked and enjoyed. A true work of art is made by man himself not imitatively, but creatively. A true artist does not imitate nature but rather interprets it in his own way by selecting the essential features of the subject and rejecting the minor ones.

Some definitions given by various authors:



J.V Estolas

Art is derived from the Latin word *ars*, meaning “ability or skill”.

A. Tan

Art is taken from the Italian word *artis*, which means craftsmanship, skill, mastery of form, inventiveness, and the associations that exist between form and ideas between material and technique.

F. Zulueta

Art is a product of man's need to express himself.



C. Sanchez

Art is concerned with the communication of certain ideas and feelings by means of sensuous medium, color, sound, bronze, marble, words, and film.

Plato

Art is that which brings life in harmony with the beauty of the world.

John Dewey

Art is an attitude of spirit, state of mind- which demands for its own satisfaction and fulfilling, a shaping of matter to new and more significant form.



Panizo and Rustia

Art is the skillful arrangement or composition of some common but significant qualities of nature such as colors, sounds, lines, movements, words, stones, woods, etc., to express human feelings, emotions, or thoughts in a perfect meaningful, and enjoyable way.

4 Common Essentials of Art

1. Art must be man-made.
2. Art must be creative, not imitative.
3. Art must benefit and satisfy man and man must make use of art in practical terms.
4. Art is expressed through a certain medium or material by which the artist communicates himself to his fellows.





Art Appreciation is the ability to interpret or understand man-made arts and enjoy them either through actual and work-experience with art tools and materials or possession of these works of art for one's admiration and satisfaction.

The Subject of Art

In any art form—painting, music, sculpture, architecture, or dance—there is always a subject that serves as the foundation of the creation of the work of art.

The subject of art is varied. A subject of art is usually anything that is represented in the artwork. It is varied—it may be a person, object, scene, or event.



Representational or Objective Arts- artworks that depict something easily recognized by most people. Painting, sculpture, graphic arts, literature, and theatre arts are generally classified as representational, although some paintings and sculptures are without subjects. Music and dance may or may not have subjects.



The Function of Art

Every art form has a definite function since it satisfies a particular need. To the layman, art may have little function. Some find meaning in art in its ability to serve the purpose for which it was designed .

- Buildings and structures are always built for some special purpose.
- Music and dance were used in ancient rituals and worship of the gods, for social and folk entertainment, as well in the military.

- Painting and sculpture may be used to narrate events, to portray people or events, to instruct (as in the case of Christian art), to commemorate individuals or historical events, and to serve as vehicles of personal expression.
- Metal work such as gates, grills, lamps, Christian religious objects, armor, weapons, and tools, ceramics, glassware, stained glass, mosaic, tilework, textile, and furniture are among the many types of arts or crafts. Each of these examples is made for some definite and specific use.

4 Main Functions of Art

1. Aesthetic function- Through art, man becomes conscious of the beauty of nature. He benefits from his own work and from those done by his fellowmen. He learns to use, love, and preserve them for his enjoyment and appreciation.

- 2. Utilitarian function- With the creation of the various forms of art, man now lives in comfort and happiness. Through art, man is provided with shelter, clothing, food, light, medicine, beautiful surroundings, personal ornamentals, entertainment, language, transportation, and other necessities and conveniences of life. Art not only enriches man's life but also improves nature through landscape gardening, creation of super-highways, and through propagation and conservation-of natural resources.

3. Cultural function- Through the printed matter, art transmits and preserves skills and knowledge from one generation to another. It makes man aware of his/her cultural background, making him/her more knowledgeable and his/her life more enduring satisfying.
4. Social function- Through civic and graphic arts, man learns to love and help each other. International understanding and cooperation are fostered and nations become more unified, friendly, cooperative, helpful, and sympathetic.

The Scope of Art

According to Manaois, there are two general dimensions of arts.

1. Fine arts or Independent arts- are made primarily for aesthetic enjoyment through the senses, especially visual and auditory.
2. Practical arts- are intended for practical use. It is the development of raw materials for utilitarian purposes. Fine arts or aesthetic arts are music, painting, sculpture, literature, dance, and drama. Practical arts or useful arts are industrial art, applied or household art, civic art, commercial art, graphic art, agricultural art, business art, distributive art, and fishery art.

According to Custodiosa Sanchez (2002)

Arts consist of visual arts, literature, drama, and theatre, music, and dance. Visual arts are those that we perceive with our eyes.

Two Classified of visual arts

1. Graphic arts- including painting, drawing, photography, graphic process (printing), commercial art (designing of books, advertisements, signs, posters, and other displays), and mechanical process, in which portrayals of forms and symbols are recorded on a two-dimensional surface.

2. Plastic arts- include all fields of visual arts for which materials are organized into three-dimensional forms such as structural architecture, landscape architecture(gardens, parks, playgrounds, golf course beautification) city physical planning and interior arranging(design of wallpaper, furniture), sculpture, crafts, industrial design, dress and costume design and theatre design.

According to Josefina Estolas (1995)

Grouped arts into major and minor arts.

Major arts- include painting, architecture, sculpture, literature, music and dance.

Minor arts- include the decorative arts, popular arts, graphic arts, plastic arts, and industrial arts.

She also grouped arts into:

Visual arts- graphic arts and plastic arts

Performing arts- theatre, play, dance, and music

Literary arts- short story, novel, poetry, and drama

Popular arts- film, newspaper, magazine, radio,
television

Gustatory art of the cuisine- food preparation,
and beverage preparation

Decorative arts or applied arts- beautification of
houses, offices, cars, and other structures.

Panizo and Rustia (1995)

Two major divisions of classified arts

- According to purpose

- Arts is classified into 5 categories

1. *Practical or useful arts*- are directed to produce artifacts and utensils for the satisfaction of human needs.

Examples: Handicrafts (basket weaving, mat weaving, etc.), embroidery, ceramics, iron, and metal crafts, and tin can manufacturing.

2. *Liberal arts*- are directed toward intellectual growth, such as in the study of philosophy, psychology, literature, mathematics, and sciences

3. *Fine arts*- are focused towards creative activity for the contemplation of the mind and the upliftment of the spirit.

examples: painting, sculpture, and architecture

4. *Major arts*- are characterized by actual and potential expressiveness such as music, poetry, and sculpture

5. *Minor arts*- are concerned with practical uses and purposes, such as interior decoration and porcelain art.

- According to Media and Forms

- Five types of arts

1. *Plastic arts*- are works which exist in a physical space and perceived by the sense of sight. Such arts include sculpture and decorative materials.

2. *Kinetic arts*- involve the element of rhythm. Dance is popular type of this art.

3. *Phonetic arts*- utilize sounds and words as mediums of expression. Examples are music, drama, literature.

4. *Pure arts*- take only one medium of expression like sound in music, and color in painting.

5. *Mixed arts*- take more than one medium such as the opera which combines music, poetry, and drama.

The Origin of Art

Art is viewed as a reflection of creativity, ingenuity, and inventiveness within a culture. Its value is seen not only in terms of its styles and craftsmanship but also in its functional interaction with all the elements that constitute human life and culture.

The history of art began with that of humanity. Art dates back to the time when superstitions and beliefs in the spirits are still very common in every culture. Indigenous art in the form of dancing, painting, music, and poetry, accompanied ancient rituals and ceremonies

Men and women of the early times perform dances to entertain, to worship their gods and goddesses, or to invoke success and blessings. Their music and poetry chronicles the life and works of their ancestors as well as legendary origins of heroes, heroines and gods.

Tribalist cultures often wore body paintings during ceremonies. Cave paintings and drawings are believed to reflect ancient religious beliefs and visions.

The temples of the East and West bear evidences of arts that pertain to gods, goddesses, religious animals, demons, priests, kings, and queens