
Appearance should never attain reality. And if nature conquers, then art must retire.
Schiller

The way we perceive what's around us is through our eyes, senses reacting to outside influence, pictures and sounds, tastes, but mostly eyes. We are visual creatures, us humans, it's in our nature in this modern society to judge and estimate with what we see. The appearance of things guides us.

The problem occurs when we start being influenced by it on a daily. If we want to be understood a certain way all we have to do is "act" that way, correct? Then people around us tend to conclude we simply are that way and we feel at rest and validated for who we are supposedly. If you dig a little deeper you understand that that "act" correlates to "look". Socially we rely on the smirks on our faces, clothes on our bare bodies, and our bodies themselves to show our truth, our attitude towards things, emotion etc.

But we aren't an honest society. From childhood on we lose our honesty to fit all kinds of demands. Only through what we feel inside without constrain can we begin to attain our own reality and choose then to share it or keep what we understood to ourselves. Art is an honest field. It's easy to be creative, it's coded in our DNA, we have a natural need for aestheticism, from the way we set plates on our tables to the arrangements on the canvas. But if we really want to cause a change, make an effect and see where it leads, that won't come from holding back and being reserved, careful and considerate.

Look at it this way, say you're talking to someone and you want to get your point across. If you start speaking politely, watching your language, choosing the right words, you get an equal reaction. The other side will respond the same, usually, listening but only to be polite, not with any intention of getting anything from what you're saying. If you were instead to speak your mind openly, to yell and curse and emphasize things as you feel you would have them held back in shock, and you would have gotten their attention.

In art it's no different. You have to detach yourself from what you know to grow in what you create, and for others to see what you want to show. You make things from within, if you're led by intrinsic motivation you simply won't end up being wrong. The appeal or skill often isn't there yet but the person on the other side of the work will understand your message if he so chooses. Take Francis Bacon and the like, painters who admittedly had little skill but were honest and persistent in what they chose to do. The resulting imagery is sometimes disturbing and revolting in the final but with purpose and intention behind it.

This way we show what's real, rather than what we want to be real.

If it were to become our nature to speak our minds at all times, there would be no need for art, no reason to create when we've put everything we felt outside ourselves already. We wouldn't need to run to pencils, papers, stone and canvas to express it for us.

The biggest works of art were created in times of distress, when any means of expression were forbidden. People felt trapped, when it's in our true nature to be free, and they fought back. Texts written over with words that struck insides of nearly all who read, to disembodied figures hung up on gallery walls, and acts of revolt from millennials who chose not to be shut up, all of this is art. It's in any form an abuse of the simple law of cause and effect. Everything circles back to the same thing if you just pay attention.

Nature in, its essence, gravitates to being in its simplest form. We are it's extension, and as long as we run for what's complex and made up we'll continue to feel dissatisfied and ache for more, falling not for what's simple but for what's the most broad and giving. As this continues our need for art will grow, we'll become bigger liars in our lives and increasingly more honest creators behind our canvases. If we go back instead, art will die, it will be replaced by anything else. We'll outgrow the need for it.

This is the way the world we made ourselves works, we dispose of what no longer serves us and move to things that let us grow in any new way. It's what separates us from the rest of the living, it's our only advantage and our biggest flaw, all depending on how you choose to see it, and where you then go from it. If you choose to go and keep digging for something you can't yet see or to your couch to sink in and settle with what's already there for you to see.