



A SYMBIOSIS OF ART AND SOCIETY

¹Prof. Ajay Kumar Jaitly, ²Mallika Sahu

¹Head of Department, ²Research Scholar,

¹Department of Visual Arts,

¹University Of Allahabad, Prayagraj, India.

Abstract: Art is produced for the purpose of society and artists as members of society, create art according to the type of relations they have with the society. The relationship between art and society cannot be ignored, because art in itself is a social phenomenon: first, because the artist is a social being; second, because his work, however will be marked from his personal experience, would be easily perceived, but it will always act as a bridge, a link that connects the artist to the other members of the society; third, because a work of art always affects the people who perceive it, which again belong to the society and it contributes in making positive assertions to their ideas, goals or values. Thus we can say that the relationship between art and society might not always be mutual, sometimes they would try to find each other, sometimes they would try to avoid each other but they can't completely turn their backs on each other. In this paper, I will not only lay emphasis on the interrelation between art and society but will also try to find answer to questions like- 'Is art accorded important roles in a particular society or do they operate merely at the sidelines?', 'Does the nature of society impact the nature of art?' etc.

Index Terms - **artist, society, art, artwork.**

“What is art?” is a question that has provoked many heated arguments. Although the dictionary defines art as, “the conscious use of skill and creative imagination, especially in the production of aesthetic objects”, but the thing about art is that it is so diverse that there are many ways to understand it as there are people. *Art is first of all, a word- one that acknowledges both the idea and the fact of art. The term after all is not found in every society, yet art is made everywhere. Art, therefore is also an object, but not just any kind of object. Art is an aesthetic object.* It is meant to be looked at and appreciated for its intrinsic value. The definition of aesthetic also varies from people to people but what I have understood is that aesthetic is something which concerns the beautiful. It is the study of beauty. It is something concerned with the perception, appreciation and production of art. Beauty is something we perceive and respond to. It may be a response of awe and amazement, wonder and joy, or something else. Hence, we can call art as aesthetic experience. Ofcourse not all art is aesthetic, but is it art nonetheless. There are many scholars who give their own special definition of the word ‘art’ such as the one penned by the famous russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy goes as, “Art is the activity by which a person, having experienced an emotion, intentionally transmits it to others.”

Another important word that this paper adheres to is, ‘the society’. A society can be defined as a group of individuals, which is characterized by common interest and may have distinctive culture and institutions. It is a human community, the specifics of which are the relations of people and represents the form of interaction and association. Social conditions provide the artist with developed art, style, ideas, feelings, problems, materials and tools etc for the creation of art. The frustrations that arise in the mind of man by living in human society, their expression finds a place in art. Thus there is a strong relationship between art and society.

A work of art is said to be masterpiece only when it can create the desired effect in the society. Art was also called the social form. The shapes of art are fixed on the paths of the society. Therefore, art is essential for the society. It shows the right way to fulfill the basic need of every person in the society. Our society is driven by powerful elites, one of which are the artists. The artist is the one who acts as a link between the art and the

society. Basically we can say that the artist is the bridge between the art and the society. The artist's talent, his self power and his artistic elements, in harmony with the nature and feelings of the society in the art form, give it comprehensive form.

The role of artist in the society is to strengthen the way that you interpret your surroundings and choose to make meaning as a creator of art. His job is to inspire, provide hope, help people look at things differently in order to make society a better place. The artist is the social conscience of a society. Being an artist is not just making things, rather than that, being an artist is a way of living. It's the way of sensitivity towards the world. The artist should be free from worries like a sage who does not have the desire to get anything, but has the ability to give something to the society. He should not worry for himself but should wish good for the society. Despite being a person of the society, he has the ability to rise above the circle of the society and observe it. He should not be swayed by his own feelings but has the ability to enter the feelings of others, do not make society painful for your own pain, but be troubled by the pain of the society.

When we begin to explore the realm of art, we will realize that it is so much more than that and that its importance to the society cannot be measured. An excellent method to relax and escape from the problems of the day is via the creation of art. Additionally, it might be a means of expressing our emotions that we might not have been able to do for a variety of reasons, including timing. However, this outlet that the arts offer can be useful not only to the individual, but to others as well! Art promotes society's best interests, which benefits us as individuals on a variety of levels.

Art is a reflection of society and culture. It helps us understand what we are as human beings and influences how we relate to each other. Art is an expression of our inner thoughts, feelings and experiences. It is also an expression of creativity that can be used for self-reflection or social influence. Art is a form of expression that has the power to change people's perspectives and shape society. It is an important part of our daily lives, as it helps us to better understand the world around us.

The artistic production is dominated by the feelings of rules and values, which are mostly derived from the social sources that is the society. However, art as a form of personal expression of an individual, in some cases reshapes and establishes social values. As an example of how human experiences and aspirations are expressed, the value system, overall pattern of communal living, and people's culture are all intertwined with the practise of art. Additionally art also transforms the dominating principles, values and beliefs of the society. Between art and society, there is a compatibility that has no end. The unity, harmony and the peacefulness which the artist achieves in his artwork comes from the society which aspires him to make it happen in actual human interactions. On one hand, it is difficult to ignore the social influences that have shaped artistic heritage and progress and acted as a formative factor in the art tradition and on the other hand, the use of art as a method of social control and guidance is something that society cannot ever afford to ignore. Therefore, art is a subtle, attractive and powerful tool in the hands of society for shaping and regulating human relations and life goals.

Most of the subjects of art are the problems of the society, in the creation done for the purpose, personality takes secondary form and the reflection of the needs of the society is clearly visible in its creation. The artist seeks to achieve self peace through objective expression in such a situation. In this situation, he chooses his own path to achieve the objective, but can never remain separate from the society. In this way, society gives inspiration to both the origin of art and functional side of the artist.

While considering the relation between art and society, the following questions are bound to arise: (i) Is a certain type of response to an artwork possible in the absence of a certain sensibility in the context of a particular socio-cultural background? (ii) Do all the artworks created in a particular society always reflect certain type of distinctive elements of that society? (iii) Must the artist owe some responsibility to the society in which he creates his art? (iv) Does the nature of society affect art in any way?

Let us consider each one at a time.

- (i) Merely liking or not liking is not an appropriate response to an artwork. It is very obvious that all people living in a society might not possess the knowledge of art. Therefore, it is possible to say that response to an artwork must take place while referring to the 'artworld' and not the society only, because society, in general might be considered incapable of responding to it the way a response to an artwork is needed. *An 'artworld' if defined, is a complex portion of larger culture. It does not only include artists but also those who support and promote art and the audiences who are responsive to art and its promoters. The existence of an artworld offers an alternative to theories based on ideal audience.* To achieve the artistic purpose, the ability to appreciate, evaluate and judge a work of art as art is necessary, and before a piece of art is

recognized, a certain level of sensibility must exist, that is possessed by people with knowledge of art i.e. the artworld.

- (ii) The artwork created by the artist has the ability to alter society's values. Moreover art brings meaning to people's lives. It is a manifestation of the society and a reflection of people's intricate identities. Hence it is feasible to believe or say that works of art may often reflect certain elements of the society at the time of creation. For example, novels and short stories may be written on issues that belong to society and politics. But from this, it must not be considered mandatory that only those artworks that have the elements of society in them will be counted and considered as art. There is nothing to limit the artists's options to include social and political themes and messages in his artworks and if we do so, it will badly limit the possibilities of the art and the artist.
- (iii) The question of commitment or responsibility arises from moral considerations of the concept of freedom. The freedom here refers to two things- 'Does the artist has the freedom to create what he wants' or 'does the artist has the freedom to create any art?'. Now this is different. The first indicates to the freedom of creating things that the artist wants but the latter indicates whether these things will be accepted as art or not as it does not depend on the maker's freedom. If we adhere to the relation between the art and society, then that creates a difference oftenly considering disharmony between his responsibility to the society or to the artworld. This is because if an artist belongs only to the society and remains so then his qualifications as an artist are in doubt and question arises that would it really be art then? On the other hand if he remains firmly and solely a member of the artworld, then his conflict with the society or the values and expectations of the people of society is inevitable.
- (iv) The relation between art and society can be determined by evaluating the function of art in a society. Society created the concept of art, which revolves around the social values, beliefs, and understandings of the collective. Art then goes through an evolution process where human interpretations of the world, and social behaviors, becoming a motive to display this understanding to the public. Then, the collective uses critical thinking to relate the piece of art presented to them regarding their environment, this process of critical thinking cultivates a communication between everyone which evaluates the function of the art piece in relation to their society. Thus, society influence art because society created the concept of art through its values and understandings.

Conclusion- Thus, we can say that true art is created by the fusion of feelings experienced through aesthetic thought rather than through effort which allows the artist to achieve inner peace and peace with the society. When it comes to the personality changes of the artist, the values he fully grasps and develops in his own head are not simply his own, they are also those of society with which he more or less consciously connects with. This relationship between the artist and society explains the 'empathy', what accounts for the successful and enduring commerce between art and society, which keeps the art alive. Therefore, no meaningful art can continue to be distinct from underlying demand and beliefs of the society.

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