

Artistic Expression in a Global Society  
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Section RVD  
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Instructor: Maria Marino  
Student: Esperanza Muino  
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### First Essential Questions Assignment

#### **1. What is artistic expression?**

Today it is difficult to have an exact definition of artistic expression, as it is presented through many points of analysis, from graphic artists, writers, poets, sculptors, designers, photographers, etc. However, it is a way of communication, through which man creates a connection, to try to express his ideas, thoughts, feelings, emotions, etc. The important thing is to captivate the audience, which is not an easy task because it demands the mastery of certain techniques, theories and concepts. But it also requires being steeped in the art in all its facets, so that we understand art's transformation and how this process impacts the society. I believe that artistic expression is the means of communication, which can be expressed in every sense, from the publication of a literary work, the design of a commercial, a photograph that presents a reality, a painting showing images, detailing sculpture man or the absolute abstraction of a concept.

#### **2. What about artistic expression is universal throughout human cultures**

The concept of culture refers to the set of beliefs, knowledge, skills and traditions that make up the heritage of a particular social group. Some anthropologists call culture as a social heritage, because it is received from ancestors.

We do not think that culture belongs only to ideas, anything created by man implies knowledge or belief, and therefore is a cultural fact.

Culture has a number of characteristics: it is learned, it is ingrained and is adaptive. Art is a form of manifestation of culture. It is born, it develops, it becomes a constituent part and then a representative element of a cultural context.

The arts or artistic expressions are cultural phenomena, which can be explained by historical, social, economic and political contexts on different cultures.

#### **3. Can you identify a particular speech, work of art or musical experience that changed how you thought about something? Please explain.**

Recently on April 2015, I was invited to be a part of an Interior Architecture workshop and symposium, with the participation of the famous interior designer Karim Rashid. Karim is an artist working in all areas: furniture, lighting, fashion accessories, home accessories, perfume and cosmetics, architectural spaces, and advertising design. He is a pretty amazing designer and has an awesome mind. In the few hours that we had with him, his philosophy taught us that "we can live in a totally different world, one that is filled with inspiring, contemporary objects, spaces, places, words, spirit, and experiences". It takes courage and some serious skills to break through the norm. I hope

that more people in the world begin to think like him. It was a pleasure to work with him, I had an amazing time!

**4. What role does art play in local and global societies? Please give an example.**

Various forms of art have been evolved with new ways of thinking, social and cultural traditions, ethical, philosophical, moral, etc. The man's expression need actually is influenced by their environment. Technology and science have become very important part for this evolution.

Art shows everything that referred to the artist as a creator but also shows his position and personal vision of vices, defects and deficiencies of systems that fit his collective universe.

The artist releases his ideology and emotions with an intention to appeal to the conscience of his audience (most of the time) or just trying to arouse in his viewer sensitivity to the aesthetic, delicate and pure that exists in nature or being human.

In particular, speaking of our actual society, art should establish a balance between science and technology - and the contrasting consequences - present in our lives as inseparable tools in our increasingly complex world (the cold and material side); and the preservation of ethical, humanistic and cultural values of man.

Unfortunately, art actually is not considered an important part in our society as it is science, language and mathematics for example. Constantly we see in our school systems when it comes to reducing budgets, art is who perishes when cut money.

**5. How does language, music or art from other cultures inform you?**

Language is one of the ways of communication in a social group. Language consists of words and / or gestures that is characteristic of a community. Through language we can communicate and describe our cultures and history of our communities in society.

Music is the art that consists in providing the sounds and silences with a certain organization. The result of this order is logical, coherent and pleasing to the ear.

There are several principles that allow carrying out the organization of sounds and silences. Harmony, melody and rhythm are some of the elements intimately related to art. Music is an art that accompanies the life of human beings since the dawn of history. Its origin came from trying to imitate the sounds that exist in nature and sounds from the inside of the human being. The discoveries that have been made about this art show already existing concepts of harmony in music of prehistory. Music has always been part of history. Through music we can learn more about different cultures in society.

Art is the concept that encompasses all creations made by humans to express a sensitive vision of the world, whether real or imaginary. By plastic, linguistic or sound effects, art can express concepts, excitement, taste and feelings. Though language and music, we also can learn from art about history in different cultures.

**6. What does art have to do with religion and politics? Please give examples.**

The relationship between art, politics and religion has always been complex. Their links and relative autonomies have usually been analyzed in relation to the circles and institutions within society in certain historical periods and frames. Art, power and church are needed forever. Some of the greatest artistic works exist because of this close relationship between art, politics and religion.

In relation between art and religion, in all cultures throughout history, religion has played a key role in their development, influencing the motives, concerns, form and function and often using it to express a culture's interests. Religious guardianship has left multitude of plastic representations of very different sensitivity according to its own conception of sensory and spiritual world.

### **7. Define and Explain Creativity**

Creativity, also called original thinking, creative thinking, inventive, constructive imagination or divergent thinking is the ability to create, to innovate, to generate new ideas or approaches, or new combinations between known ideas and concepts, which normally lead to new conclusions, solve problems and produce original and valuable solutions. Creativity is the production of an idea or a concept, a creation or exploration that is new, original, useful and satisfying both the creator and some others from some period.

### **8. What should the rules of censorship be in the country where you live?**

Censorship is the control of information by someone who has a monopoly of power. In democratic systems as the US, there is no censorship, because the law provides one of the fundamental freedoms: freedom of the press. It is a specific section of liberty and it is that citizens and the media can express freely their ideas, as long as it is done within the provisions of the law (for example, it is prohibited to advocate violence or terrorism).

The absence of censorship in democracies does not prevent some individuals or entities try to limit the information and even subtly implement certain dose of censorship.

Totalitarian regimes try to control all information in the media. This control is often inflexible, because the purpose of dictatorships is to stay in power and that people cannot have accurate information about reality. To impose this type of control, totalitarianism put in place a complex system. Certain topics and criticism of power is unacceptable and are prohibited. Some words and expressions are also prohibited. Journalists and reporters must show their work to the censors can determine whether or not permitted. Naturally, the literary and creative activity is also subject to the limitations of censorship. Writers, journalists and artists in general have to undergo what establishes the system of censorship and if they cannot pay with jail or some kind of penalty. For this reason, there are writers and creators who choose exile, preferring freedom instead not being subjected to a dictatorial regime.

In some cases, in dictatorships, ideas are expressed in an indirect way and veiled manner, avoiding censorship filters by indirect or concealed criticism. While freedom of expression is a social conquest of democracy, it must be exercised from personal responsibility. In fact, the law protects the free expression of ideas, but penalizes slander and calumny.

### **9. Should all poetry, music or art be beautiful? Explain.**

Beauty is associated with good looks. It is a subjective appreciation: what is beautiful for one person, could not be for another. However, it is known as canon of beauty that there are certain characteristics that society in general considers as attractive, desirable and

pretty. The conception of beauty varies across cultures and changes over the years. Beauty produces pleasure that comes from sensory manifestations and that can feel for the sight (for example, a person who is attractive viewed from the physical point of view) or sound (hearing a voice or a nice music). The smell, taste and touch, however, are not related to beauty. Beyond this sensory manifestation, there should be consideration that some abstract and conceptual things are beautiful. A moral reflection can be highlighted as a beautiful text for example.

One of the most widespread standards of beauty is harmony. Humans tend to think that harmony and the right proportions are desirable.

The opposite of beauty is ugliness with no pleasure but discontent and creates a negative perception of the object. Perhaps today we can conclude that the poetry, music and art can be beautiful or ugly depending on the purpose pursued.

**10. What do you think this class will teach you that you do not already know?**

I think this course could help me improve the utilization of different artistic languages as tools in the service of creation, expression, communication and understanding of reality, while helping me develop more skills and abilities that are necessary for the appreciation and creation of artistic productions. In my opinion, art is always in constant renewal. I would like to gain more knowledge to develop better artistic projects that integrate new media and new technological information and communication through the study of new cultures.