

“Art is a lie that bring us nearer to the truth” (Pablo Picasso) evaluate the claim in relation to a specific art form. (Visual art)

Theory of Knowledge

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“Art is a lie that bring us nearer to the truth” (Pablo Picasso) evaluate the claim in relation to a specific art form.

Art is very different from words; often we can't express arts through words because it is about feeling and different interpretation by people. The lie that art created is simply what the visual presented to us. But the truth that art brings us near to is our own self understanding of human nature. Art has various forms, such as dance, literature and of course visual art. Picasso is an abstractionism artist, he capture the commonality and abandon the unique feature. Many of us would find abstract art very confusing but in fact, it is the essence of art. Picasso suggests that we feel arts instead of seeing it. Philosophy sees this feeling as consciousness, because consciousness the result of processed objective ideas, so he believes that those arts are mythological is fake, therefore it is a lie. But matter determines the consciousness so our consciousness also determined by whatever objectives matter presented. Therefore, to an extent consciousness reflects the essence of matter, i.e. the truth of human nature, thus he believes arts is a lie that created to reflects the objective matter. In many ways arts also inspires human to look at the world differently, as well as evokes our own self understanding.

Picasso's art often contain manipulated, exaggerated even manipulated women's face and body. Very obvious, compare to the real body, Picasso's art is a lie. But we see the truth from his art, this truth can be in various forms, because each individual has different perspectives, therefore with different objective ideas each individual will see different truth. For me, I believe Picasso's drawing reflects the need of sexual attraction required by human, and the manipulation can be opposed towards the human desire of

being erotic. However, others might well understand it differently, but the importance is that human society can raise more truth from the lies he created. Another example would be Picasso's famous blue period painting - Guitar player. Blue is a cold color that associates with loneliness, whereas red is more often associated with passion. By showing passion with blue, this blue also becomes a lie because blue is used to feel suppression and poverty, yet, the old man still happily plays his guitar shows his passion towards music even better. Since each person has their own passion, we could all relate this passion to ourselves. For me, I relate this passion towards art. Even under horrible condition, the old guitar player may still be filled with passion, which can inspire many who lost their passion to bad condition.

“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to be comprehend” (Henri L. Bergson) suggested the same idea. Everyone sees the same visual art work, but due to different attraction to the art work, each person could have a set of different interpretations. And due to different desires, each of us can understand the art work differently as well, therefore, the art work may also help us have a better self understanding and motivate people to look deeper. Essentially this lie that presented can lead to truth. Even if it's not the actual truth, we gradually discover more and move closer to the truth.

If art is a lie, how can it reliably convey the meaning of knowledge? Because artists create art works out of their own imagination, even though they could be based on a real image such as a scenic advertise art might be based on nature, but no where could it

is not exactly the same. The artists combined the most attractive sites together to create an advertise poster that help people to understand the place better. The lie in this case is there will be no actual place looks exactly the same as they had on picture, but the powerful message – the beauty of nature world is passed through the art. This lie is not a lie, instead it inspires people to look outside of the box and look at themselves. I think good visual art work touch the hearts of people; it is more powerful when delivering knowledge.

Many would argue that artist only made art works for living and does not contain a meaning behind their works. And they produce the art work without a meaning first but the meaning is contributed afterword with by different people. Therefore, it is true to different people since they interpolated the art work with their human nature experience. The lie would simply be that the art work was not created for meaning; the truth that rises from the art work reflects our own consciousness. Even if the art work was not meant to have a meaning, those who given their opinion will still come to their own truth

Art has gradually becomes more abstract which made the art become more of a lie since it is moving away from realism and the photographic art. But essentially it still helps with human understanding of the world. Such as imperialism reflections the political condition of the period, it helps citizens to understand the political concept better than words. For instant one makes a sign of “do not be racist” compare to one who made a drawing of people with different culture background holding hands together under the sunlight. The message is more powerful in the case of the drawing. Propaganda is one of

the ways that power is shown through art. Take Hitler's propaganda for example, one of his famous propaganda in the beginning of his political career shows him surrounded by children. He has his arm around the children and strong light is on the background which made the children covered by his shadow. People, especially women will associate him with father figure and follows his control. But we now learnt what the reality was. Because visual art can be so powerful it is often used negative circumstances too, it is important to concern different art work that represent opposite ideas not blindly follows one idea because it could lead to an inhumane truth. The truth in Hitler's case is his ambition for more power. Because the art that created was powerful thereby convinced the people to take the wrong path, the essence of art is to reflect ourselves into it.

Picasso's statement is reasonable since we feel art and we understand art instead of only sees the art work. Therefore with that emotion art is objective. Since art is so different from words it is hard to express art through words. So, art depended on people's interpretation, which can have different meaning due to different experience and our consciousness. Therefore art also inspires us to look at the world differently. To an extent art present an objective representation of the world for us since we understand the art through our own objective ideas and the art work is based on human nature or the world. And our world is affected by human nature therefore; art gives an objective view to our world. The artist however absorbs different aspects of human nature and expresses it through art work. When we adapt that truth from art with different perspective of art

work, it improve human understanding of the world and opens a new way of looking at the world.