



WHAT IS ART? ČO JE UMENIE?

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ABSTRACT

This is a concise, lyric defense of art from the artist's point of view. It brings a brief description of the origins, the evolution, the influence of art in human society and its development. It emphasizes the capital importance of language and the changes and the unpredictability of the evolution and experimental art.

Key words: art, poetry, evolution.

ABSTRAKT

Príspevok je stručná, lyrická obrana umenia z pohľadu umelca. Prináša stručný opis vzniku a vývoja umenia a jeho vplyvu na ľudskú spoločnosť. Zdôrazňuje zásadný význam jazyka a zmien a nepredvídateľnosť evolúcie a experimentálneho umenia.

Kľúčové slová: umenie, poézia, evolúcia.

Who needs art? Not the New York Times, which publishes every Sunday a section called "Arts and Leisure." Putting arts and leisure on an equal footing suggests that the traditional view of art as a source of wisdom and moral instruction has been replaced by a view of art as a branch of the hospitality industry. I think it is a waste of energy to condemn this new development, deplorable as it may be. If past experience is any guide, The whole situation will change over and over again. About 200,000 years ago, evolution produced the first litter of homo sapiens. They were a weak and scrawny lot. Some anthropologists have speculated that the tribe was nearly wiped on by its competitors.

"What does not change / is the will to change," wrote Charles Olson, an American poet influenced by Ezra Pound. Over time, under pressure of many kinds, the arts have changed in content, purpose, impact, and distribution. It depends on learning new strategies of coping.



Our cognitive skills began with hunting and gathering. We learned where edible beans grow, when they ripen, and how to collect them without provoking the attention of other local predators. But it was too inefficient to scrutinize every single bean in the bean-patch. Somehow, we learned how to organize our thoughts into patterns. Language is not a just a talent or skill; the nerve system literally fills up the skull. Our brains contain approximately 86 billion neurons.

It is difficult to say precisely why we need poetry. Yet there is every reason to assume that poetry has been part of our consciousness since the Stone Age. The oldest extant poem, the 4000-year-old epic of Gilgamesh, is still available in several translations, including the Akkadian and Babylonian. And people are still dancing under the shadows of night and music. As we change from one technology to the next, from one set of values to the next, some of our cultural heritage is getting lost but new modes of perception arise to replace it. However, we don't know now, nor can we ever know, ahead of time, what the consequences of our experiments in poetry, painting, music, dance, and so forth will be. All we know is that creativity is a drive that keeps us coming up with new schemes for survival.

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