

## The essence of art and literature

Tolstoy and Plato accused art of disrupting morality by inciting emotions. Plato blames art for watering negative emotions that are better left desiccated. While Tolstoy inaccurately compares art and its excellence to infection and infectiousness respectively. The author points to Tolstoy ignoring the contemplative experience of art which transforms the essence of passion. The author disagrees with Wordsworth's definition of poetry as a recollection of emotion; depicting it as a relic of the past rather than a present reality. Through poetry passions become clear of obscurity. Shakespeare, through his theory of dramatic art, emphasises the nature of art as a mirror to emotion. He depicts emotion and passion through his characters which, in line with the conception of art of visual artists, allows the audience to contemplate the essence of emotion.

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Precis words = 144.