

Precis 2008

Title: Philosophical Approaches to Art

Early philosophers have accused art because it injects wrong emotions and affects moral life. For Plato, art ~~instills~~ lust, anger, desire and pain. To Tolstoy, art is infectious to us. However, he suppresses the aesthetic nature of art. Wordsworth defines poetry as "Emotion recollected in tranquillity". Emotions are not the collection of past events but they are alive and aroused at the moment. To him, emotions are seen not felt because of their strength. Shakespeare gives his own theory which proposes the art as a means to poetical passion. A poet does not inject but represent his passion. The characters in Shakespeare's play are not to excite people's emotion, rather it is an opportunity to go through the nature. Hence, people are not at mercy of dramatic emotions. Therefore, Shakespeare's theory is in complete agreement with fine arts.

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