

Art has always had an important role in humans' lives since ancient times. The first forms of art were discovered in the caves, where the indigenous wrote and represented battles' scenes or natural subjects: art was then used as a way of communication but also represented the strict link between men and nature. This is why ancient Greeks decorated vases and amphores, used in everyday life, with images of nature, symbols and animals. In the past the relationship men had with nature was deeper and more conscious of the one we have nowadays: ancients stared directly at the natural phenomena and represented in their art and poems, real and pure feelings, while we experience things with the filters of modernity and new discoveries. Giambattista Vico thought the purest poetry was the ancient one because of this close relationship with nature and also Giacomo Leopardi shared the same idea: to reach happiness, men must be in direct contact with nature, because this is the only way they could have meaningful passions and sentimental proses.

Statues, buildings and wonderful paintings were created in all these years, in each country, with their own features: indeed, each century is characterised by a specific movement, influenced by the social, political and historical climate. The eighteenth century, deeply affected by the ideas of the french revolution, spread in art values of political and personal freedom, but also the recovery of classical forms, principals and taste. The nineteenth, otherwise, had different artistic subjects: Romantics preferred the theme of nature, a giant one who scared small men who felt alone in the vast universe. But the second half of the same century left behind the representation of reality exactly as it was, to represent imaginary scenes: it is called "symbolism" because it uses symbols instead of complete and organic images. Poets and artists are more interested in their own feelings and in the perception of reality they have, than in reality itself: they represent their own condition in a society in which they have lost their importance and magnificence. Baudelaire's "Albatross" is no doubt the most famous example of symbolism: his poem shows how the poet feels, talking about how the albatross is hurt by seamen.

Where words cannot arrive, there goes art.

Art has an important role not only in literature, but also in philosophy because it is capable of representing what is separated: it creates a dichotomy between what is real and what it is not, between good and evil, between what is thought and what is seen.

Philosophy itself has always questioned every aspect of reality, in search of a universal truth: but since men are all different, the answers they have arrived to are completely different one from another. Some reflect about good, others about evil, third ones about faith, but almost everyone, when it comes to dealing with suffering, in the nineteenth century, talk about art.

Schopenhauer is one the main philosophers of the nineteenth century, author of the "Word as will and idea", a book in which he talks about two different aspects of the world, that can be either seen as a will and as an idea. In his voyage through the world as will, Schopenhauer introduces different methods thanks to which men can reach happiness:

in this process art represents one of those steps, a necessary one. Even though he does not think of art as the last passage to a long lasting serenity, it is something men experiment and that leads them to a momentary happiness: the artist reproduces on canvas his feeling, shared by the beneficiary who immediately feels better.

Philosophy gives art an important role because it is responsible for men's happiness and sadness, but how much does philosophy affect art?

Some of the main thesis of twentieth century philosophers were made useful by artists who used them when it came to art. Bergson's distinction between objective and subjective time deeply affected cubism, in which objects were detected in different moments: time was no longer external to the painting but became itself one of the main protagonists.

Freud's theories were shared by Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoska who both realized portraits, or canvas dealing with sexuality and love: Schiele and Freud started from studies regarding hysteria, the first to represent himself in the most realistic and sentimental way, the second trying to understand how mental phenomena worked, before the formulation of the id, ego and superego.

Art has accompanied, and always will, men through each step of their lives, from childhood to old age, in different ways: some may decide to dedicate themselves to art, becoming artists, architects, or critics; others may have a deep passion but decide not to spend their adult life studying or dealing with it. But art is universal and just as ideas and feelings, it has its own variations, because art is not only about paintings, buildings or statues: it is about reflection, observation and experimentation.

It is about feelings, transport, rush, love, passion; it regards every single aspect of life.

Music can be considered art, literature can be considered art, philosophy is art, singing and dance can be both considered arts, because art deals with the unconscious, it generates feelings, negative and positive ones, it makes people connect with each other because it is universal but at the same time private. There is nothing more controversial than art.

Since it deals with universals and private truths, to me, the acronym of art would be: Art Regards Truths. In conclusion, art has always been a pillar of ancient and modern society without which museums would have not existed, without which it couldn't be possible to study the first types of communication or the first type of community existing.

It has always understood people without judging them and let them express freely: there is no censorship that will ever stop art.

Art can be everything or anything but for sure it will touch everyone's inner chords.