

## IMPORTANCE OF ART EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

This work consists of four sections and was prepared to emphasize the importance of art education for humanity. The first part contains the problematic of the study. Second part I presented the importance of the art education to give the students ethic and aesthetic perspective. In the third part art education was presented. And last part is the conclusion of the work.

**Keywords:** art, education, art.

### INTRODUCTION

Art, is a notion as old as human history. Art existed in every place where humans lived. Every society owned their unique art through-out universal history of art. If there is a community of people where there is life that required material life, intuition, subconscious mind, art has shown itself as an effect of instinct and continues to show (Artun, 2009:13).

Experienced social pains, collapses and losses, burdened art and education social responsibilities. Art which was formerly used as an indication of power, eccrine, flamboyance, will become a common language of humanity which has been torn apart by wars. In their studies, From Antiquity to Modernism, Arda, Şahin and Büyükkol thoroughly discussed the ideas which have been dominant on art from antiquity to modern times in their study called "Science, Art and Philosophy" (Arda, Şahin, Büyükkol, 2013:136-144).

In order for a phenomenon to be called art, a productive free will needs to meet another free will that understands it. Free and productive minds can only exist with education. There have been very important and revolutionary advances in art education after the First World War. The process of humans' efforts to change and improve their lives with a conscious motive is called art education. The concept of art consists of subjects related to humans, societies and the universe. In this context education of art holds functions such as, ethics, aesthetics, using a universal language, becoming a bridge between individual to individual, individual to society relationships and most importantly, art education has the function to solve the problems of masses.

## IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY OF ART

Art, is a form of expression which is based on concept of aesthetics. It is a tool to understand and interpret objects and events. Art is a communication tool that uses a variety of ways. Art is the most comprehensive and singular area of people's cultural life and personal experience. In this context, there is not any other lesson, experience or field that can provide as much value as art. Ever since the ancient times, philosophers have made different definitions of art and each of these definitions have assigned responsibilities according to their perceptions of the world. Over time many of the definitions focused more on what art is good for rather than what it is. Eventually, all of these definitions have referred to its importance and necessity in human life. In antiquity, Aristotle interpreted art as " Art does not reflect reality but what it should be" (Artun, 2009: 20).

*Major artistic activities all endeavor to tell us something. Universal things tell other things about humans and art. Art is also an information style and the information it provides is equally valuable as science and philosophy provides. This is the situation when we compare it to other information styles however in order for humans to understand their environment and surroundings this style of information holds entirely a different place (Buyurgan, 2007. 16).*

As it can be seen in these expressions art is not only a tool of appreciation but it's also a tool of knowledge. It's a tool that enlightens society and helps them remember what really exists. Art is important because it becomes a bridge between different cultures and it enables individuals to express their inner worlds clearly and concisely without needing violence. "Art gives people aesthetic pleasure; it entertains them while keeping them busy. In this context, art rescues people's souls from darkness of life and prepare them for an ideal life which is superior to real life. The role of art education in getting society to comprehend and creating awareness is great. Having subjects (knowledge, aesthetics, ethics) related to art to become a part of human life thus fixing the perception and judgment issues is again possible with art education" (Mercin, Karakuş, 2007: 16).

## ART EDUCATION

The specific purposes for the upbringing and development of the individuals we call education. It's an undeniable fact that there is a great correlation with welfare of societies and education. Starting from the individual's family life, it can adapt to social and cultural life and perceiving the universe and the world we live in with the correct values is only possible with a good education. As clearly seen in today's world, nations with high levels of education, they live in peace and prosperity. "Art education is a process of individuals' efforts to change, improve and empower their lives methodically (Uçan, 2002:2-3, Aktaran Mercin, Karakuş, 2007:17)". As Uçan said Art education process motivates an individual to become a more positive and harmonious person since throughout the process ethical values lessons have been taught. This enables more peaceful individuals to grow so that these peaceful individuals can form societies that live in peace.

Demirtaş stated how important education is for peace with these words; "In order to create a better world, today's children and teenagers should be educated peace oriented and

reviewing current curriculums and education philosophies and implementing new more peace oriented education materials should not be delayed further. It's crucial that people understand whatever their race, age, sex, religion or social status may be every single individual has equal responsibility in creating a true peaceful world and it does not matter which education method it is, formal or non-formal, every single methods should pay significant amount of attention to peace education" (Demirtaş, 1991:43).

In this context, when we consider art education we can say that it's a process of developing an individual's ability to see good and beauty with ethics and aesthetics. What's important here is what is actually being understood from "Art Education". In this process does not only consist of technical skills or technical knowledge. Art education is a process that hosts great meaning of life. What's targeted here is nurturing individuals who can see, perceive, assess correctly and is able to pay more attention to ethical values rather than personal gains. In art education lower art branches like history of art, art philosophy and sociology of art etc. should also be taught. There are duties and functions of art education such as individual, social, economic, psychological, and communicative. In his study called "Art Education" Kazım Artun listed functions of art education as follows; "Improving creativity, gaining an inquisitive, interrogative and skeptical identity. Improving cultural and intellectual vision, spiritual, sensorial, cognitive, intuitive power and self-confidence and consequently making self identification possible. Gaining ability to see things through, predicting the probabilities, establishing healthy interactions and effective communication. Creating and environment where the individual can learn self-sufficiency, self-expression and self-discharge and contributing social and emotional development. Gaining healthy thoughts and personality development and the perspective towards the development of modern works of art and being able to see other works of art unprejudiced. As we can clearly see, there are various dimensions of art education and each and every single dimension contains broad sense and responsibility" (Artun, 2009:122).

*One of the most basic function of art education is to teach us the history of mankind and help us understand how and what we believe in. In order for an individual to see and assess the developments in the society and the world may only be possible with the correct implementation of this education. Filtering historical events with the ethical values ensures an ethical reaction towards them. Looking superficially at the existing causes facts to be overlooked??duşuk ve anlamsız cümle. Looking things superficially causes hidden facts to be overlooked. However, an individual who knows how to review a piece of artwork can see the historical and cultural reality lying under it and can assess the existing correctly*  
(Mercin, Karakuş, 2007: 17).

Every single individual who has the value system can evaluate events versatily and objectively. Provision of community reconciliation and peace between nations is possible with empathy and with a proper art education a sense of empathy is developed. (According to Special Commission on the Development of Arts Education in Turkey's report.

*Modern art education, in its basis, aims to increase individual's sensitivity towards their social environment with artistic activities as well as helping them to build a sophisticated interactions and satisfy their aesthetic, creativity and interpretation needs, while developing new tastes and in the end enable them to express themselves in the artistic areas and make their lives much more meaningful.*

(Buyurgan, 2007: 23).

If we look at the historical development of art education, it's possible to say that art education is being developed in accordance with economic, social, political, and social requirements and purposes. Wars which affected the entire world in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have caused the people who experienced destruction and despair to surface new art movements and new perspectives to art education.

During and after the the First World War and, values that surfaced in the both victorious and defeated countries are the result of the depression" (Artun, 2009: 73). Art education is the first to come out of these radical values. In this period, the Bauhaus school of art design has given a different perspective to art education. In this era of change, the school was qualified to meet both artist's and communities' needs.

*The aim of establishing the school was to raise awareness on social issues and encourage the artists to take responsibilities for the community they live in. The school was also expecting the artists to reflect the problems of the societies and solving the problems by using art as a tool. Unfortunately, since Bauhaus was the leader of progressive side, their efforts kept getting intervened by the government. As a result Nazis who were strictly against the modern art movements have forced the school to abolish. (Bulat, Aydın, 2014: 107).*

## CONCLUSION

The individual, getting art education with the concepts of art, art knowledge, art philosophy, art history, aesthetic and ethic, is able to make the life more meaningful and pleasurable by the doors opened by having these concepts. The life perception of the person who has the artistic point of view to universe and experiences is different than others. The art draws moral lines with its complementary concepts of aesthetic and ethic. Understanding the art is possible by absorbing the philosophy within. The individual having a broad vision by means of art education uses the unitary and peaceful identity of art and his life philosophy in social communication. The person whose emotions are filled with pleasure of aesthetic values is impossible to drift apart from ethical values and this person could not think misdeed. The insensibility lies at the bottom of the societal collapse (Mercin, Karakuş, 2007: 18). The art education is a means to provide the required social sensitivity. The art enables raising individuals who do not only live for own benefits, but also produce for humanity and who have public consciousness. The way the brain is set free is seen through the creativity window that art education bestows. Free minds require free lives. As for peace, it is the biggest symbol of freedom, since the human only be free and improve in peace.

*As far as we know humans are the most advanced and civilized species in the universe. Therefore, all the problems, regardless of being individual or social, have more than one solution that does not include war or any other sort of violence. Consequently, it's necessary that every individual should adopt peace and happiness as their philosophy of life and internalization should have considerably significant place in their value systems (Demirtaş, 1991: 43).*

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