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“DO WE NEED ART? IS ART USEFUL?”

Human beings have always painted. A lot of research has been made on this subject. The book “ Humanity’s oldest Enigma“, by Bertrand David and Jean-Jacques Lefrère tells us that human beings already painted on the walls of natural caves and grottos some 30 000 years ago!

They depicted mammoths, deer and all kinds of wild animals, and they even began by making some small sculptures of those animals. The sculptures were used, originally, to show to any stranger entering the tribe’s ground, that this tribe was, let us say, the tribe of the wolf, or of the deer, or whatever. Then the stranger could decide if he would become aggressive, if he had heard of this tribe as enemies, or on the contrary, he could calm down, if he had heard of them as friends.

The stranger also had to show his own animal sculpture. So you see, if we choose to refer to those animals, either as sculptures or as paintings, as the beginning of ART, we have to consider this art as VERY USEFUL.

But, you might ask, what about the paintings on the walls? You see, when our ancestors died, their family needed to make a ceremony. That was very important because of 2 things: the first reason was that they wanted to say farewell to their dead beloved ones. They respected them.

The second reason was that they were very afraid of the dead soul coming back as a ghost!!! So, there, you see, the dead person was fixed on the walls!

This was done in a respectful way. If the person had been a great hunter, from the tribe of, for instance, the lion, then he would be painted as a big lion. If he was only a young child, then he would be painted as a little lion. So he wouldn’t feel that he should come back and revenge!

The small sculptures that have been discovered at many different places also helped the painters to remember how to paint the animals. So even not very skilled “painters” could paint them, as they simply tried to make it resemble the sculpture model. The sculpture’s shadow was used as we would use carbon paper. That is why the paintings are very much alike, even though they have been painted at different periods of time. Also signs were painted. The results were very beautiful and admirable, as you know!

But after many centuries, tribes became more and more sedentary, the climate changed and became warmer, so our ancestors didn’t need the caves so much anymore. They created burial grounds.

Maybe one could imagine that there was no need for art anymore? YES, there was! YES, they still wanted to EXPRESS themselves, also through music, chant, storytelling and of course painting and sculpture.

Human beings have what we call a soul. It is difficult to explain what a SOUL is, but it does have a great impact on our lives. If we fall in love, if we get anguished, afraid or very sad, we want to share it with our friends and our family. Art will convey our feelings and emotions.

BUT WHAT ABOUT MODERN TIMES?

Big industries need to convey a false” feel good” feeling in order to sell their products! They put a nice cow on their milk bottle, so we believe that this product comes from a very happy cow from a nice farm. Or they use a nice piece of music, so we feel well-at-ease. It sells much better!

Or they show us a nice –looking young couple, drinking coke to make us believe that if we drink it too, we will become popular and find a lover. So art seems to be very useful, but SOMETIMES it is MORE DANGEROUS THAN USEFUL! IT GETS PERVERTED!

I am not the one to decide if advertisements are art or not, but they very often are and anyway, they are based on skills and imagination. Those 2 things are basic in order to create art. Art began with the need of expression. Now it is also used for MONEY-MAKING.

Alas, many artists have sold their souls. So we, as artists, are responsible for changing the world of art. We have to make people realize what is happening. We must help them feel their soul again, by reacting to our art works and remembering our common values, deep within.

The world CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT ART!

I WILL NOW SHOW YOU SOME PICTURES THAT WILL GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES OF REAL ARTISTIC CREATION. That kind of art can make a difference. It can show us the way to our real values, so we can integrate the messages that the artists have put, consciously OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, in their works. I hope that you also will feel that ART IS NECESSARY, NOT ONLY USEFUL!



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