

IDS 3336 - Artistic Expression in a Global Society

- ▶ Artistic expression varies from culture to culture, and what constitutes artistic expression depends on the norms, attitudes, values, beliefs, and social practices of a given culture.
- ▶ All cultures – past and present – enlist language, music, and art to communicate their visions, hopes, and dreams and to respond and react to events in their daily lives and societies.
- ▶ Cultures cannot endure without artistic expression.
- ▶ Societies will continue to grow, prosper and adapt to an ever-changing world dynamic but at what cost?
- ▶ As the world becomes more interconnected, attitudes, values, beliefs, norms, and social practices of any given culture are at risk of being marginalized or even lost.
- ▶ Individuals are not born with cultural DNA, but rather acquire an understanding of their cultural heritage through the shared artistic expression of their community.
- ▶ Every culture has its own unique form of expression through its language, music, and art, which tells the story of that culture's collective experience and perspective.
- ▶ Each culture possesses the knowledge and skills to adapt to intercultural interactions in the interests of preserving their own cultural heritages and those of others as expressed through language, music, and art across the globe.

THEREFORE.....



IDS 3336 MODULE 1

AESTHETICS – CREATIVE IMPULSE

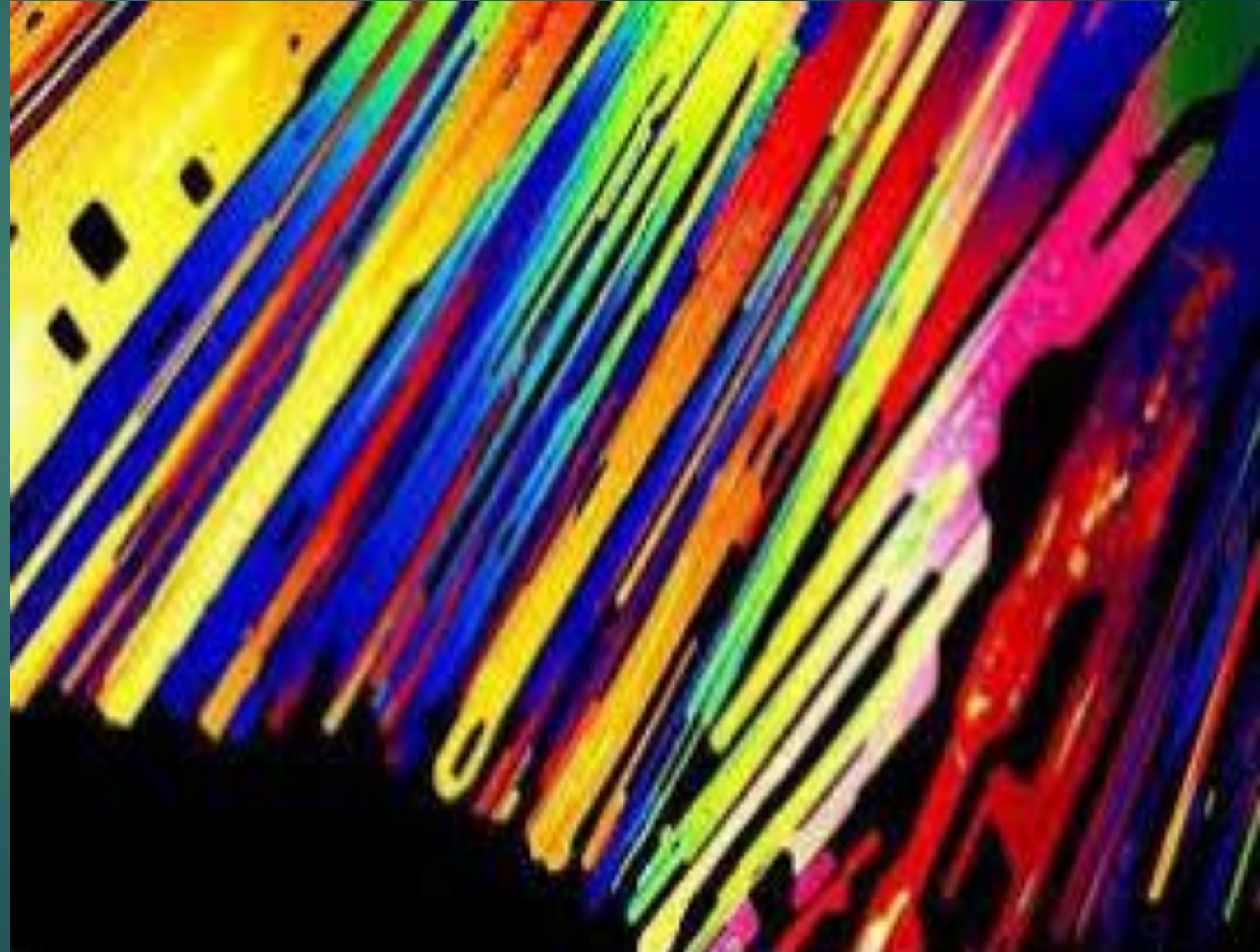
The Domain of Aesthetics

- ▶ Aesthetics is the branch of philosophy devoted to conceptual and theoretical inquiry into art and aesthetic experience.



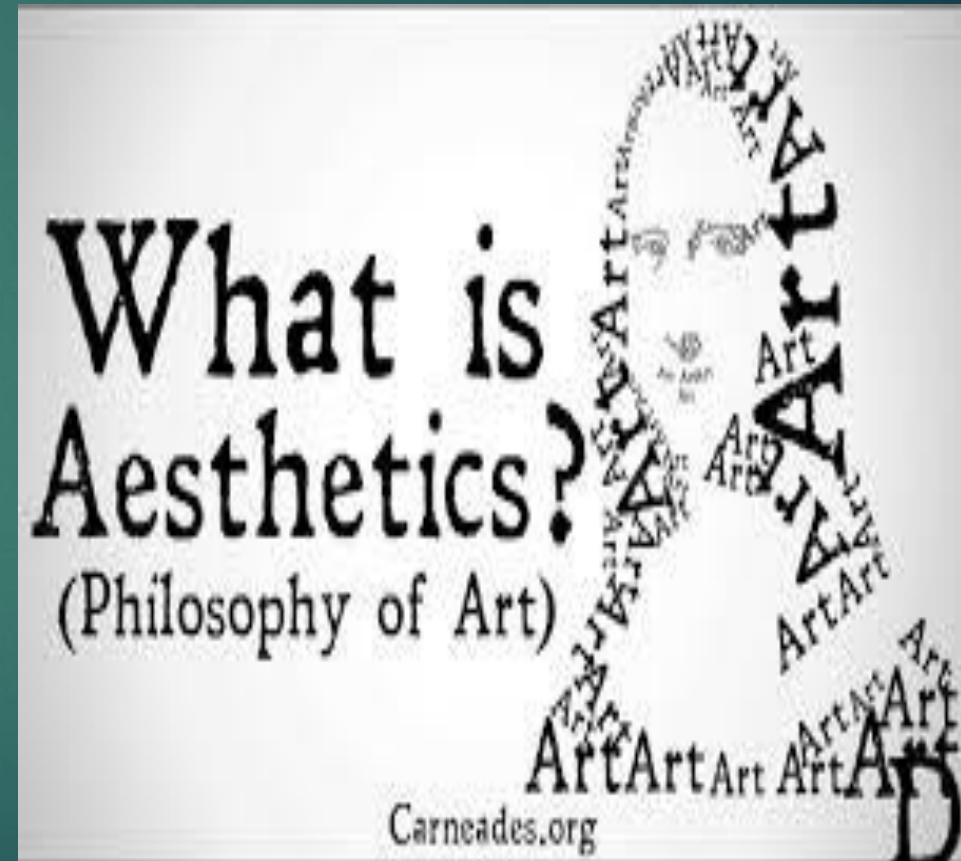
Five central topics:

- ▶ **the concept of the aesthetic**
- ▶ **the definition of art**
- ▶ **the ontology of art**
- ▶ **representation of art**
- ▶ **expression in art**



the concept of the aesthetic

- ▶ Open-ended list suggests-
beauty, ugliness, sublimity,
grace, elegance,
delicacy, harmony,
balance, unity,
gaudiness, anguish,
sadness, tranquility,
cheerfulness, comicality,
flamboyance.



Aesthetic Experience

- ▶ Distinctive experiences or states of mind, whether attitudes, perceptions, emotions, or acts of attention.



- Aesthetics is everywhere; aesthetic experiences differ throughout cultures, values, backgrounds.
- Aesthetic experience richer when subtleties of works are understood
- Aesthetic attitude helps people become more aware of sensory experiences and this leads to heightened perception of life and opens mind to learning.

“The more you know The more
you see”

Aldous Huxley, The Art of
Seeing




Aldous L.
HUXLEY

(1894 - 1963)

A. Huxley

- ▶ “The most characteristic fact about the functioning of the total organism, or of any part of the organism is that it is not constant, but highly variable”.
- ▶ “Clear seeing (hearing, sensing, etc.) is a combination of how much you know and how you feel at any particular moment.”

- 
- ▶ The more you know the more you hear,
the more you smell, the more you taste,
the more you feel, the more you see...

The more you know, the
more you are you...

The Definition of Art

- ▶ The concept of art is inherently open and so resistant to definition that the creativity that is inseparable from the idea of art necessarily dooms to failure any attempt to close the concept of art in terms of determinate conditions



The Ontology of Art

- ▶ Ontology of art is concerned with the question of what kinds of entities artworks are. Philosophers have asked whether works of art are physical or mental, abstract or concrete, singular or multiple, created or discovered.



Representation in Art

- ▶ Representation in art has mostly been pursued with reference to pictorial representation
 - ▶ Perceived resemblance and illusion (Gombrich & Goodman)
- ▶ Aspect perception or perceiving one thing as another (a gnarled tree as an old woman) (Wollheim)
 - ▶ Pictures generate fictional worlds with instructions on how the pieces are representational
- ▶ Aspect recognition visual depiction as a mode of representation is based on selectivity (Lopes)



Expression in Art

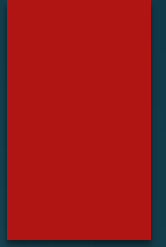
- ▶ That artworks express states of mind, or are expressive of such states. Expression is generally regarded as a distinct mode of artistic meaning, differing from representation in its logical features, mode of operation, and range of objects.
- ▶ Expressiveness is a matter of intuitive correspondence or fit between the appearances that works of art or natural objects present and feeling states of the subject, which are then projected on to those works.



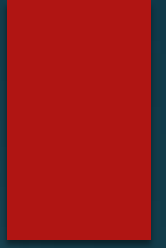
Artistic Expression -

- ▶ Concerned with perceptible form, with the exploration and contemplation of such form for its own sake.
- ▶ A vehicle of expression or of communication, especially of states of mind or non-propositional contents.
- ▶ Tied to the mimesis, imitation, or representation of the external world.
- ▶ An activity aimed explicitly at the creation of beautiful objects.
- ▶ Meaning in the context of a specific cultural framework, the artworld; as a particular social institution, identified by its constituent rules and roles.

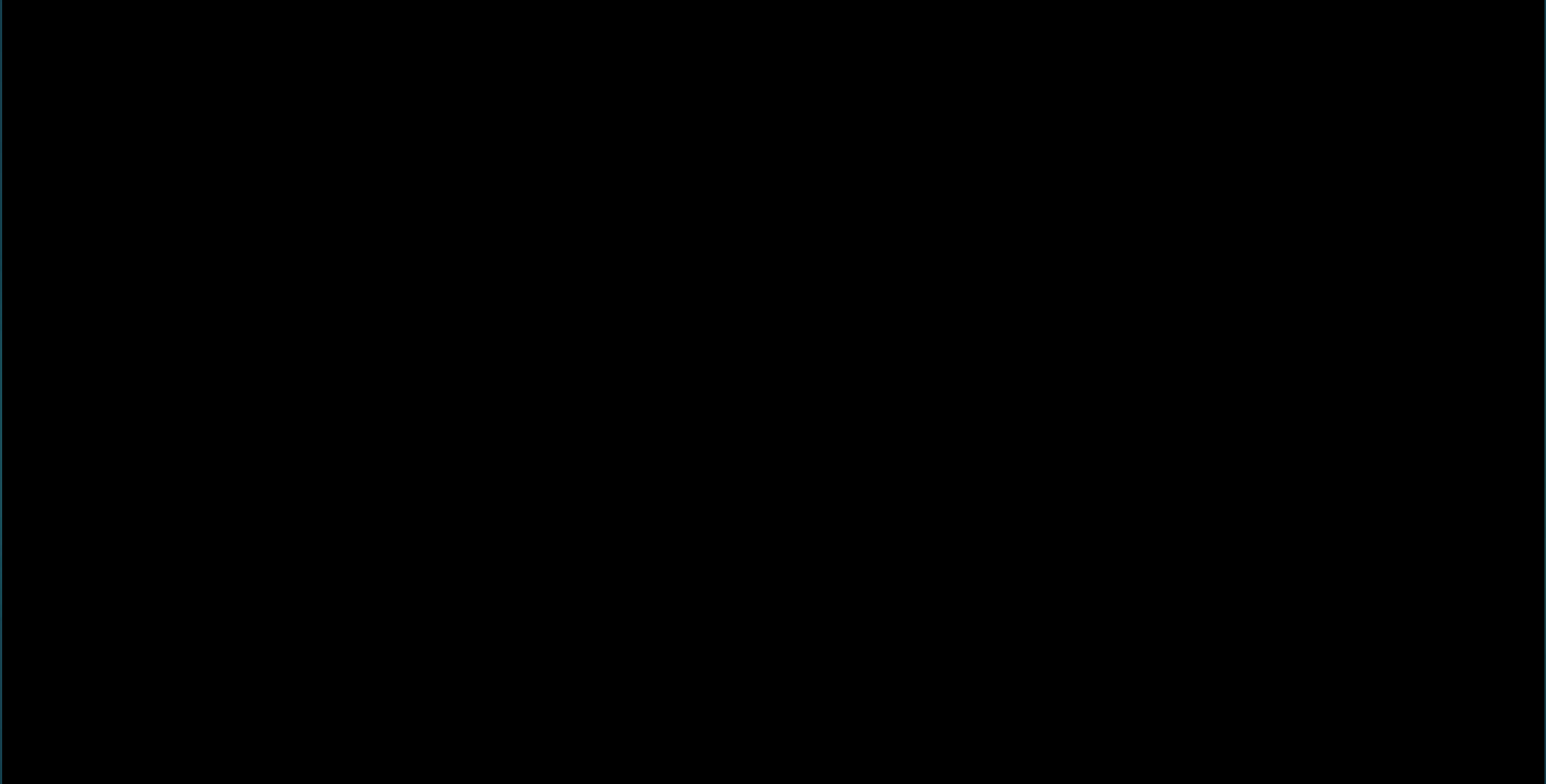
Aesthetics Crash Course



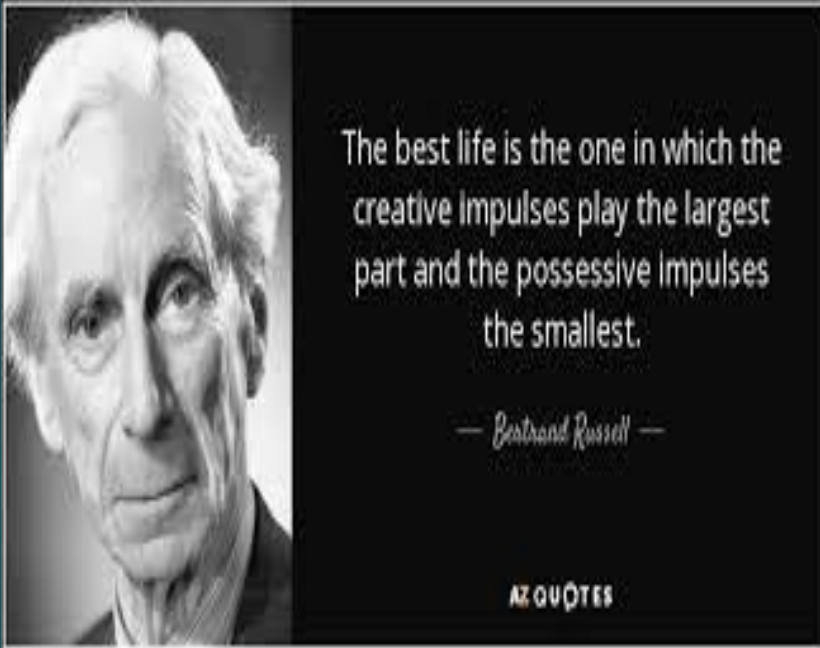
Creative Sculptures Around the World



Artistic Expression and The Creative Impulse



The Creative Impulse



- ▶ “the teacher, like the artist and the philosopher, can perform his work adequately only if he feels himself to be an individual directed by an inner creative impulse, not dominated and fettered by an outside authority
- ▶ Bertrand Russell, British logician and philosopher

Creative impulse

- ▶ The artistic intention to express the self through form and performance
- ▶ The urge to express personality and imagination to create an aesthetic effect
- ▶ The objectification of the will through artistic action



Artistic Impulse to Create

- ▶ In the formative stages of artistic development, the artist expresses the creative impulse or drive to create through some specific medium, for example, once the artist gains some grounding in a specific domain, for example, through colorful paints or crayons, expressive movement and gesture, or musical rhythm



The creative impulse can be killed, but it cannot be taught. What a teacher can do... in working with children, is to give the flame enough oxygen so that it can burn. As far as I'm concerned, this providing of oxygen is one of the noblest of all vocations.

— *Madeleine L'Engle* —

AZ QUOTES

Artistic Impulse to Create

- ▶ Once the artist gains some grounding in a specific artistic domain, for example , visual art, dance or music, the artist, who has now attained greater sophistication, becomes seduced by a set of specific aesthetic elements, such as color, and imagination, movement and form, or rhythm and composition



The "big C" and "little C"



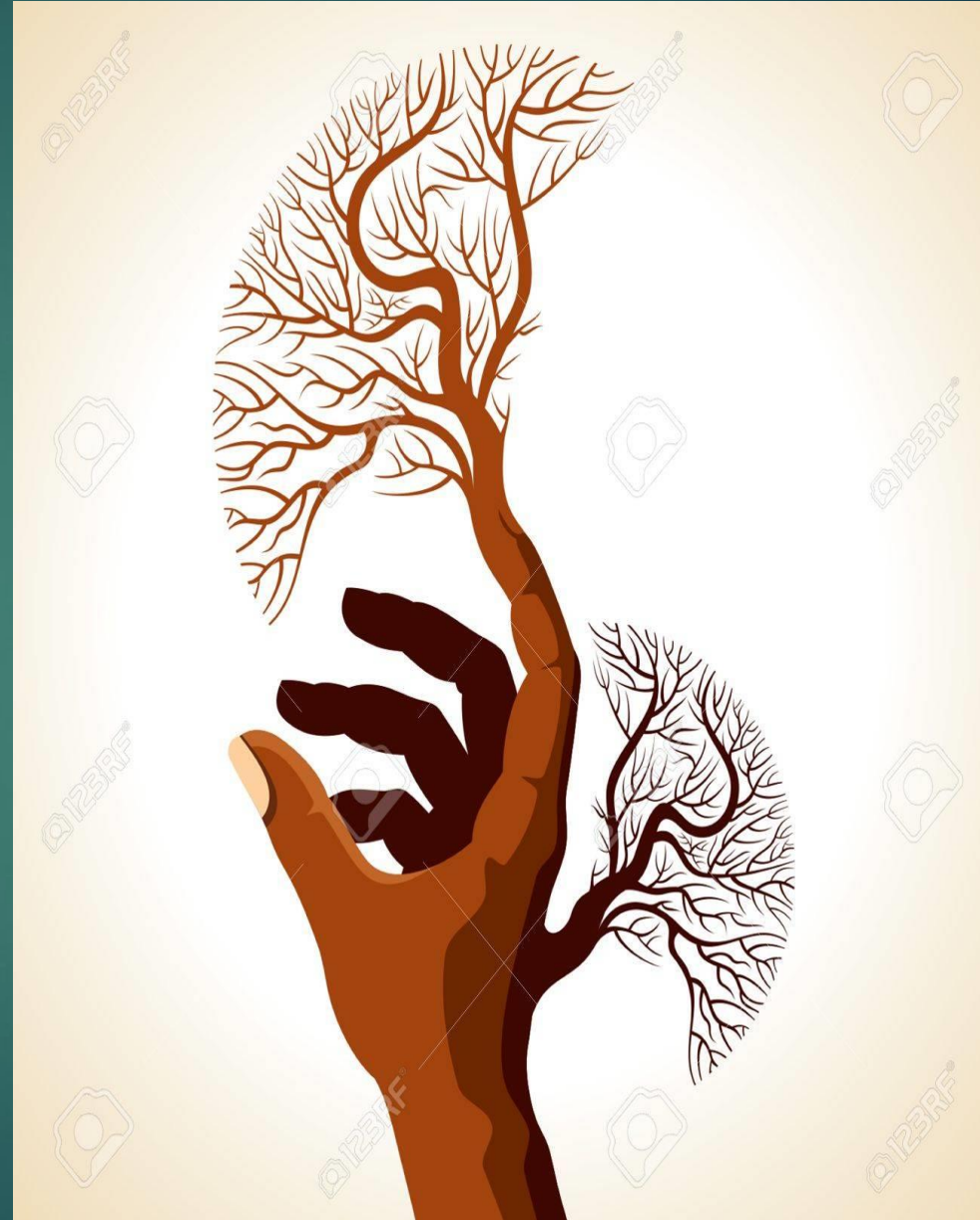
- ▶ Big C along with social progress and civilization development, enables the creation of artistic masterpieces,
- ▶ whereas the little c provides daily aesthetics enhancements like arranging flowers in a vase, setting a colorful table or designing a plan for a vegetable garden



The Creative Tree

▶ Main Roots

- ▶ Form
- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Perception
- ▶ Emotion
- ▶ Conscious Imagination
- ▶ Subconscious (intuitive) Imagination
- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Improvisation



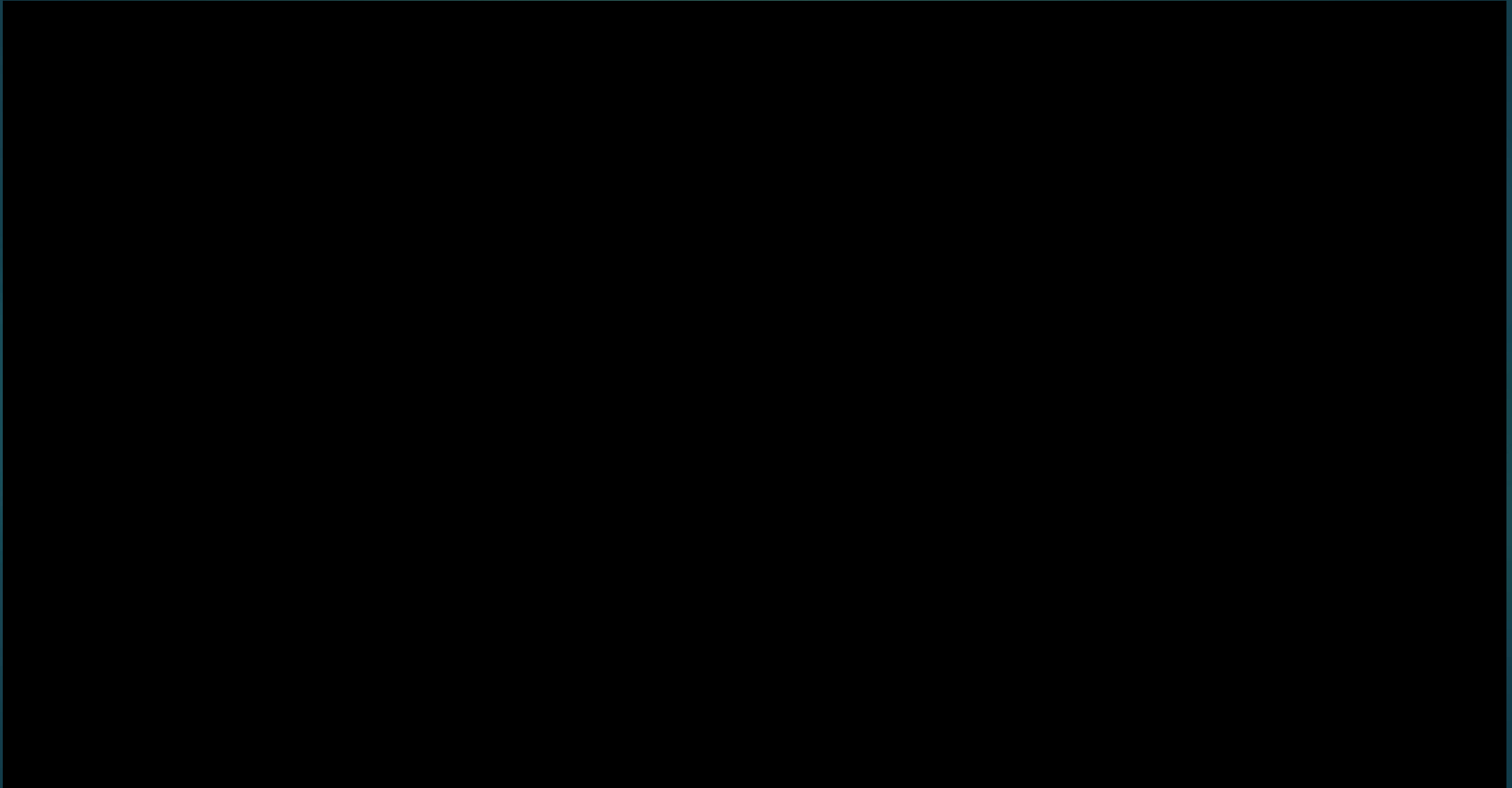
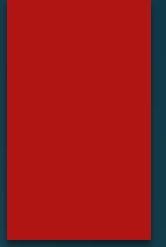
The Creative Branches (subsets)

- ▶ The artist usually leans to expressing one or several subsets of the nine creative impulses over others
 - ▶ This leaning which changes from composition to composition depending on artistic intent or it may be a chronic leaning due to limitations in artistic development
 - ▶ Each root element feeds specific branches'
- ▶ Format
 - ▶ Compositional
 - ▶ Technical
 - ▶ Perceptual
 - ▶ Emotional
 - ▶ Conscious
 - ▶ Subconscious
 - ▶ Spirituality
 - ▶ Spontaneity

The Creative Leaves (subsets)

- ▶ Format → ▶ **Structure, Function, Content, Context**
- ▶ Compositional → ▶ **Perspective, Medium, Space, Arrangement, Proportion, Focus, Movement**
- ▶ Technical → ▶ **(Knowledge, Skill/Dexterity, Concentration**
- ▶ Perceptual → ▶ **Sensation, Sensory Memory**
- ▶ Emotional → ▶ **(Emotional Attitude, Memory, Depth, Range**
- ▶ Conscious → ▶ **Experience, Conception, Relative Truth, Artistic Choice**
- ▶ Subconscious → ▶ **Symbolism, Epiphany**
- ▶ Spirituality → ▶ **The Call, Vision, Passion**
- ▶ Spontaneity → ▶ **Improvisation, Self Discovery, Simplicity**

Art In Context



10 creative music videos

