

BELIEFS ABOUT ART

1. Some artists seem to value the useful, functional purposes that art works serve.

There are several ways artists can achieve functional ends. They might focus upon human needs associated with religion, ritual, ceremony, food, clothing, or shelter, for instance. They might also create art with the obvious intention of affecting the morality or social awareness of the viewers.

Some philosophers argue that art is (and should be) something that accomplishes some “practical” purpose (pragmatic, functionalist, or instrumentalist theories).

c. Mary Erickson. Eldon Katter. 1977

2. Some artists seem to be concerned with the formal order of things.

There are several ways artists can focus upon formal order. They might use abstraction, for instance, to draw attention away from any representational subject matter. Artists might focus upon systematic approach to color, or shape, or line, or repetition, or balance.

Some philosophers argue that art is (and should be) formal order (formalism).

c. Mary Erickson. Eldon Katter. 1977

BELIEFS ABOUT ART

3. Some artists seem to be concerned with expressing feelings, moods, or ideas.

Artists can achieve expressiveness by considering moods, feelings, or ideas such as anger, humor, confusions, tranquility, mystery, melancholy, conflict, peace, and pride and by using combinations of materials, techniques, lines, shapes, colors, etc. that suggest these things.

Some philosophers argue that art is (and should be) the expression of feelings, moods, and/or ideas (expressive theories).

c. Mary Erickson, Eldon Katter. 1977

4. Some artists seem to want to make things look real.

There are several ways artists can make things look real. For example, they observe closely, copy small details, carefully control values and gradations, position things naturally, and use exact, even proportions.

Some philosophers argue that art is (and should be) imitation (Mimetic theories).

c. Mary Erickson, Eldon Katter. 1977