Modern Fine Art: A Vehicle for Understanding Western Modernity

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Abstract
While art curricula are not without reference to twentieth century fine art, the social significance of modern fine art has been a neglected area of study. The purpose of this paper is to survey and review the model characteristics of modern society and modern fine art. Striking similarities are revealed in such a review which strongly suggest that a study of modern fine art in art education could serve to problematize both the social origins of modern fine art and the values of Western modernity.

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Some people consider modern arts not serious. In this regard, the question “Can we think of modern art as real art?” comes into existence. So to answer to this question we need to take for consideration what is art in general and what forms it has. There are a variety of arts, including visual arts and design, decorative arts, plastic arts and the performing arts. Concerning the question of modern art it’s quite difficult to judge, but nevertheless people are divided into two sides: pros and cons. After all our understanding of art comes to nothing more than our school knowledge about periods of Renaissance, Classicism or Modern. Just because one doesn’t like or understand the art, doesn’t mean that the art is not real art. While art curricula are not without reference to twentieth century fine art, the social significance of modern fine art has been a neglected area of study. The purpose of this paper is to survey and review the model characteristics of modern society and modern fine art. Striking similarities are revealed in such a review which strongly suggest that a study of modern fine art in art education could serve to problematize both the social origins of modern fine art and the values of Western modernity.