

## Creative & Artistic

*A Philosophy, Dominic A. Thomas*

In simple terms, with no regard to subjective significance or personal biases, art is the arrangement of elements to influence emotions. Creativity is the phenomenon where something new is made. Based on this logic, one may be artistic, but not creative, mimicking what one has already seen, heard, or read. Being artistic does not necessitate creativity. However, one can be creative, and creativity necessitates artistry. Whether the artistry is "good" or "bad" is completely irrelevant and highly subjective. Creativity takes a vision and implementation/execution.

In terms of personal bias, being a "good" artist implies creativity and innovation, therefore the term "artistic" would imply "creativity," and the latter would still imply the former, thus making the terms almost interchangeable, but not completely. But if art is to influence and inspire emotion, there can be no concrete definition of "art." Art, by its very nature, defies definition, but implores meaning.

Insofar as creativity making something new, what constitutes something new? If energy is neither created nor destroyed, only changed, even within God's creation of the universe, how can one create anything? Presented with the task of defining creativity and art, a panelist for the Howard School of Art replied, "you have to ask God." The essence of God is in creativity. The process of creating is art in and of itself therefore the creative experience *is* art.

Any effort to separate the two becomes exhaustive and futile. An artist must incite an emotion through their creativity and execution of their creative vision, whether it has been done before. Art is art. Would you not call a child's rendition of parts of Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," art? Would you not call the process by which they selected, memorized, interpreted, and delivered the piece creative? Are fashion, design, poetry, visual art, and performing art not narratives, telling a story through the creativity of the artist?

I first approached this as "creativity" versus "artistic," but the terms cannot be separated. They contain the essences of each other. Word choice is powerful.