

The Impact of Religious spirit of the age on Art*

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Abstract

Every era has its own intellectual and social dimensions the influence of which extend to touch the artistic topics in terms of creativity and production conditions. The religious belief is considered as an important effect on the whole historically-successive artistic process. The oppression exercised by the religious authority on creativity has always been present, but in forms that differ from an era to another.

Viewing the religious theme embodied in art works, we will recognize that vast area achieved throughout ages.

At early stages art rested on primitive, mysterious magic-based beliefs. Then art introduced a physical representation of the images of the national gods and religious beliefs that used to give explanations about the universe and glorify kings. Clergymen, then, started to identify the boundaries and function of art in a way that served their goals. Christian religious men continued to employ art for the sake of their messages and teachings with a controversy over the role and limits of art. On the other side, Islamic art expanded but it neither served belief nor subject to any religious guidance. With certain spiritual nature, such Islamic art might have sought to avoid prohibition fatwas.

Finally, art could not be freed from religion scopes until Renaissance had come with its human and mental spirit.

Key words: Impact, Spirit of the age (Zeitgeist), Religion, Art

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