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Juxtaposition No.2

Oil, mixed media on canvas, cardboard, cardstock, hot glue

My intended direction for this piece was a general juxtaposition of media, colors and concepts. Odes to my uncle, Eric Schultz, who was an abstract painter as well as Jean-Michel Basquiat, one of my favorite artists who I regularly draw inspiration from. I tend to work with cardboard just because I like how frowned upon it is and how malleable and multipurpose it is in the sense that it can be used from shipping packages to creating large architectural painting frames. The correlation between my work and my research paper is limited but I'd say the main connection would be abstract art and how it is perceived and interpreted. The path taken to create this piece was long and somewhat challenging but I feel it was necessary for the result. This piece evolved many times throughout the making of it with spontaneous decisions and random details that I felt were necessary to bring it together. I don't feel like I'm actively trying to convey or invoke any specific opinions or questions aside from its main center around the topic of juxtaposition, it's up for whatever interpretation the viewer feels.

Manifesto on Understanding the
Mind of an Artist



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Writer's Note: This paper addresses mental illness in the art industry and how artists don't need to be perceived as mentally ill to achieve fame or be successful with their work as well as how their work helps them express themselves and not that their mental state is a result of their work. This paper is purely my perspective on the topic which is why it will be a manifesto.

Manifesto on Understanding the Mind of an Artist

On August 12th, 1988, well known and revered painter, Jean Michel Basquiat died of a drug overdose in his home in Manhattan, New York at the age of 27.

On July 23rd, 2011, influential and talented singer and musician, amy winehouse died of alcohol poisoning in london england

And on July 29th, 1890 vincent van gogh, who was a frowned upon and troubled painter, is thought to have shot himself in his home in northern france.

These are only a few instances of the many, many, artists we have lost to a broad range of reasons regarding mental health and wellness. We have lost prominent and influential artists in the industry.

In my personal experience When I ask people what they think of an artist, their mind goes straight to a broke, depressed, introverted, individual who is so pained by their own existence that they die young with little to show for it.

I'm not here to disprove this because everyone is different, but rather to give a glimpse into my own mind and experiences, as a way of exploring this topic.

The human mind in general is a broad and insane topic that deserves its own paper and discussion. For me and this paper though, I want to touch on the brain of an artist and how I can personally say my own brain works. I also find it interesting and want to explore how my thoughts, ideas, emotions reflect into my work, and how I may express them differently than a plumber or a librarian would, because of my experience and relationship with art. Not that I'm saying plumbers or librarians aren't artists, I believe everyone is an artist in their own way, but rather stating the mind of someone that creates art regularly and produces visual work based off of their thinking, may have a different thought process than the majority of people. I feel that artists are very misunderstood and again, I am not speaking on behalf of the entire art community, but these are my own personal thoughts on the topic of my brain and how it thinks differently compared to others.

Art as a whole is an incredibly subjective topic. The creator of a piece has a perceived way of looking or feeling about it seeing as how they created it but so does any given person to interact with it. It can be interpreted differently by anyone. I heard someone say once, "once you put art into their world it is no longer yours" i agree and disagree with this statement for different reasons Which makes it such an important concept and topic. There is so much to talk about on the topic of art, however, not everything can be art. Art has to have personal meaning or meaning

to others. If you tape a banana to a wall it's not art. It's a creation, a form of poiesis, definitely, but art, no. To clarify, poiesis is the Greek word for creation. It means to create something from where was once nothing.

Artists are normally a very sensitive type of people. We see the world in a much different lens than others which is arguably why we have most of the ideas we do... but sensitivity often correlates into being creative and vulnerable in a harsh world.

Personally i do not feel tortured as an artist. I am 100%, guaranteed, a sensitive person and artist in general. I don't believe I am sensitive because of my art but I do believe me seeing myself this way has filtered into my work. I don't consider myself tortured by my reality, however, I am also very young and have not experienced much of the hardship life has to offer. I dont feel that age equals torture i do feel that it equals more experience and experiences are definitely not always positive. Many people filter their trauma into their art as a coping mechanism which is why i think the world sees us as tortured. We are being soft in a hard world which is much of the time seen as there is something wrong with us.

Fame definitely has something to do with this as well. Fame has an impact on an individual entirely differently than their art does. People who've come in contact with fame have described it as lonely and confusing. This feeling isn't positive for anyone so for a "sensitive" individual to feel this way is especially impactful. However, this isn't the case for all artists, most are incredibly successful in their work and mentally. Great examples here would be Virgil Abloh the artistic director of louis vuitton and the owner and founder of Off White. Weaving his way into the music industry through his influence in album covers to his influence in fashion. He

lived to see his company, friends and family thrive and influenced thousands of people in the process.

Jean Michel Basquiat grew up in Brooklyn, New York and would later leave home, in his teenage years, to live in Manhattan. He financially backed himself through his paintings and his band called 'Gray'. He grew to be known for his tag work and his street art with Al Diaz. He started receiving recognition for his work at the age of 20 with the mentorship and support of artists such as Andy Warhol and Diego Cortez. His work started off with little to no recognition while his sporadic and fast brush strokes were seen as messy and a result of his drug issues and mental state. His work today is marketed and valued at anywhere from 50 to 150 million dollars. He is one of the most iconic names in abstract art and arguably the art community as a whole.



Basquiat's Untitled, 1982, originally sold for 4000 and most recently sold for 57.3 million.

Schudy V

Abstract art has been a developing art movement and genre since the early 1900s. Specifically 1910 when artist and art theorist Wassily Kandinsky developed his own style that didn't have to represent anything specific and mainly consisted of shapes, colors, lines and spaces. To follow in his footsteps are Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Georgia O'Keeffe. This art style has often led people to believe that these artists were mentally ill or just off in one way or another. Like for example the public and critics labeled picasso's works as "odd" or "the product of diseased nerves" picasso was notably odd and self proclaimed to be mentally off but it was not a result of his art his art was a result of his mental state. To reiterate. For some this may be the case but it was not their art that led to this, I would argue their art even helped them express how they felt.



Kandinsky's Composition VIII, 1923, oil on canvas

Schudy VI

Abstract expressionism is another instance of abstract work and movement that swept through the art community in contemporary eras. Abstract expressionism was less frowned upon though for its recognizable elements whereas pure abstract art was typically not recognizable at all. Abstract expressionism was the abstracted view of an object or an individual. It still consisted of bright vibrant colors, shapes, patterns and lines. But there were noticeable features that were easier to comprehend. Still this movement was not viewed as well by the public as it is now.

To Briefly close out this paper, these are all components and instances that I believe, well represent the statement that artists aren't all mentally ill or altered or challenged and that their work is not the reason if they happen to be, rather that their work helps them to express themselves.

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