

The imprisonment of art

Isn't it disappointing that art itself which should be a form of expressing emotions and representing creativity keeps being restricted by the persisting network of the capitalistic art market? Because of this power structure individuality of artists gets lost and access to art can't be granted for everybody. How can we as a society reach a turning point so that everyone gains equal access to art (industry)?

The main challenge we face is that parts of our society can't overcome barriers to gain access to art. This may be because of disadvantages in education, social mobility and financial opportunities, which concerns both artists and consumers. Through gatekeepers in the existing art network, who have the power to decide which art gets represented the art of well connected and rich people gets promoted the most and the opinion The imprisonment of the general society, all cultural and social backgrounds become more irrelevant. Furthermore, education plays a big role because without the knowledge about the art market the barrier of gaining access to art gets even harder to overcome as you must educate yourself first, which costs time and money some cannot afford.

Another result of that challenge is the lack of access to art that denies a broader understanding of art from different traditions, cultures and individuals. That leads to the society missing out on cultural exchange and inspiration as an artist as well as a consumer of art. The gatekeepers who provide the access to art have a restricted view on the understanding of art which is why completely different forms of art and perspectives don't get the opportunity to be seen. Already in institutions like schools artwork of children gets judged which leads to pressure among the children and makes them assimilating to the existing artistic standards through which individuality already gets lost in childhood. Isn't it a paradox that art stands for freedom of expression and on the other hand gets restricted? How can we as a society address these challenges?

We see an opportunity in early artistic education for everyone. Access to art has to be granted through organizing artsy events representing multiple cultural backgrounds. Another option would be to grant free art or music classes, so everybody has the opportunity to gain some skills. To take these approaches to the next level the system with gatekeepers would have to be revolutionized.