THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ART IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the role of art in the life of society, its influence on the development of culture, and its importance in elevating human spirituality. In addition, the social, aesthetic, and educational functions of art are explained through examples.*
Keywords: *art, culture, aesthetic education, spirituality, creativity, society, values.*

"The level of development of our people is primarily evaluated by our national culture. In this sense, culture is the image of our people and our society. As we embark on creating a new image of Uzbekistan, we must first begin with the development of our national culture."

Shavkat Mirziyoyev
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Introduction

In 2017, during a meeting with leaders of the culture and arts sector, the Head of State, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasized: "We must never forget one truth: if culture and art do not develop in our country, society will not progress. The level of development of our people is primarily assessed by our national culture. In this sense, culture is the image of our people and our society. As we set out to create a new image of Uzbekistan, we must begin, first and foremost, with the development of our national culture."

Indeed, the development of human spirituality and intellectual thought cannot take place without culture and art. In our country, this sphere has experienced periods of both growth and stagnation due to various reasons. However, in recent years, fundamental reforms and structural transformations have been implemented by our government to elevate these fields to a new stage of development. Most importantly, even under the global challenge of the pandemic, attention to culture and art in our country has not diminished.

In particular, the Presidential Resolution of May 26, 2020, "On Measures to Improve the Activities of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan," created significant opportunities for representatives of this sector and for a wide range of art enthusiasts to realize their long-awaited aspirations.

Independent and free thinking is essential for every individual. Uniform mass thinking is destructive; without diversity of thought, neither creativity nor progress is possible. In this regard, blind imitation may lead to the loss of national identity and self-awareness. At the same time, it is necessary to study and adopt advanced ideas enriched with universal human values found in world literature, culture, and art.

No sphere can develop in isolation from others. Today in Uzbekistan, the development of national culture and art is regarded as an integral and inseparable component of the country's socio-economic development. This is because culture and art represent an extremely important and

delicate sphere in the progress of a nation. They directly influence the heart of society and cultivate feelings that shape its aspirations.

The President of our country has emphasized the necessity of creating all required conditions to lay the foundation for a new Renaissance — the Third Renaissance — based on broad democratic reforms in Uzbekistan. He has also expressed concern about what specialists in the field must do to ensure that our cultural heritage is preserved in accordance with international standards and becomes part of a new national ideology.

At first glance, it may seem that all necessary conditions exist — there are laws, responsible institutions, and no apparent problems. Our country possesses approximately 8,000 tangible cultural heritage sites. In preserving them and ensuring their transmission from generation to generation, our youth represent a significant force.

Thanks to independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan became a member of the United Nations (UN) and UNESCO. In 1996, it ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Ichan-Qala in Khiva (1991), the Historic Centre of Bukhara (1993), the Historic Centre of Shahrisabz (2000), and Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (2001) were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This obliges us to preserve these heritage sites in accordance with international standards.

Main Part. Art is an integral component of humanity's spiritual culture and a specific form of spiritual comprehension of the world. In a broad sense, the concept of "art" encompasses artistic values, their creation (artistic production), and their consumption (artistic perception). Throughout history, art has developed in close connection with the progress of human civilization.



Figure 1. Pyotr Redkin "Dance"

The concept of "art" refers to creative activity aimed at artistically mastering (and transforming) reality in accordance with the laws of beauty, as well as all products that emerge as a result of such activity. In other words, everything created with skill and refined taste based on the principles of beauty is related to art. Two main types of art are distinguished: applied art and fine (aesthetic) art. Applied arts include such fields as pottery, ornamental design, embroidery,

gold embroidery, and costume design. Fine arts include painting, music, sculpture, cinema, theatre, and fiction. In addition, art forms can be divided into expressive and visual types.

Some forms of art depict reality, while others express it. For example, music is an expressive art form: through melodies, a composer conveys emotions, and these melodies create a certain mood within our inner world. Painting and sculpture belong to the visual arts; in them, a particular landscape or situation moves the artist's heart, awakens specific feelings, and is then captured in colors or form. In this way, works of art nourish our spiritual world.



Uzbek folk art has an ancient history that has been formed over centuries. In the fertile valleys of the Oxus and Jaxartes — within the territory of the republic that occupies a large part of Central Asia — numerous nomadic tribes have lived since ancient times. Archaeological discoveries in sites such as Zarautsoy, Teshik-Tash, Sarmishsoy, and Aman-Kutan have revealed stone artifacts dating back to the primitive period.



The Amu Darya Treasure, currently preserved in the British Museum, confirms that highly developed artistic craftsmanship existed in this region as early as the Bronze Age.Examples of ritual sculpture found in Jarkutan, Molalitepa, and Sopollitepa, as well as numerous terracotta statues discovered in the ancient regions of Bactria, Khorezm, and Sogdiana, serve as evidence of the deep-rooted traditions of monumental art.

Music in the oral tradition, or traditional music, is one of the principal forms of musical creativity. Since ancient times, it emerged in the process of satisfying people's vital needs (such as labor activities, rituals, ceremonies, and others) and, through historical development, has been divided into two main layers: folk musical creativity (musical folklore) and professional music in the oral tradition (classical music, compositional art).



Creators of music in the oral tradition consistently rely on the characteristics of collective artistic consciousness and strictly adhere to the aesthetic principles and creative rules of a particular period and style. From this perspective, music in the oral tradition often differs from composer-centered creativity aimed at producing individual artistic images.

By its nature, oral traditional music does not consist of authorial works fixed in musical notation; rather, it comprises examples transmitted orally from generation to generation. The artistic expression of these works is embodied through various processes and distinctive methods. Students who learn directly from masters often add their own interpretations to the pieces or create alternative variants (versions) and perform them.

The musical heritage of Uzbekistan consists of genres of folk musical creativity (such as labor and ritual songs, yalla, lapar, termas, dance melodies, and lyrical tunes), as well as professional music in the oral tradition (maqom, classical singing, instrumental compositions, and others). Music and art are sources of aesthetic pleasure for human beings; they bring beauty into human life and shape people's emotional attitudes toward reality. They also serve as means of observing, studying, and understanding life. Art helps transform life in accordance with human aspirations and serves as an instrument of education. It inspires admiration for beauty and encourages rejection of evil.

As a spiritual bridge and a means of communication among people, art cultivates artistic and aesthetic taste and shapes a particular worldview. Art is interconnected, to a certain extent, with other phenomena of society's spiritual life, such as science, ideology, and morality. The purpose of art is the artistic comprehension of the world and the satisfaction of people's aesthetic needs through the creation of works that bring pleasure and enrich the human spirit. Through art, a person gains aesthetic enjoyment and inexhaustible creative energy; in this sense, art becomes one of the most powerful means of spiritual elevation. Most importantly, it also has a positive impact on human health.

Conclusion

In conclusion, art is an independent sphere of social life that influences all aspects of society and interacts with all forms of social consciousness. Through artistic means, art enables a fuller and more engaging understanding of reality. For art, the human being serves as the central theme, although human presence is not always expressed directly. Art seeks meanings in objects and natural phenomena that are significant for humanity; it purifies the human soul and serves as an important means for comprehensive personal development.

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