

MICHAEL NEWBERRY

A NEW EDITION BY MICHAEL NEWBERRY

Evolution Through *Art*

Second Edition

Art, the Integrator of the Human Spirit

Evolution Through Art examines the exceptional artworks of history as primary sources, from the cave paintings to *The Harvest* by Van Gogh, and to living masters today. Following in the giant footsteps of artists who wrote the history and theory of art, like Vasari, this book comes from an insider's perspective on *how art is built to reach you*.

ETA covers how artworks are a time-capsule that connects you directly, at full strength, to a genius like da Vinci. And it shows how great art has a cognitive power to tap your heart, mind, and vision. "Without art humanity might never have noticed our dormant potential, much less acted on it."

With a focused reading of this book, you can hold the breadth and scope of great artistic advancements within your being, and come away seeing the vast stretch of great art as your legacy.

BUY THE BOOK — \$9.99

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How does visual art become the doorway to *your rapture*?

This book begins with the evolutionary first steps of prehistoric artists, leading up to the temples of Egypt and Greece, explores the sensual nude, then rises to revolutions of light and mind, passing some tragedies along the way, and grows to the masters of today, arriving at a breathtaking view and theme of human emergence.

Art is a miracle. By integrating thought, emotion, and perception, art gave birth to human emergence, and to those who embrace that legacy, rapture.

II. WHAT THIS BOOK DOES

It reframes art history, *showing how art is built to reach you.*

O1

The Artist's Eye

Lasting insights.

Two highly important and influential works on aesthetics, *The Lives of the Artists* by Vasari and the *Canon* by Polykleitos, were written by working artists who understood art from the inside. Likewise, Newberry brings five and a half decades of studio practice to reframe the history of art from the inside out.

O2

Revealing

Soul to soul.

Art is the form that embodies thought, emotion, and perception in sync. This book shows how that works, and how it transmits, from the artist's soul to yours.

The Evolutionary Leap

Of us, and consequently humanity.

40,000 years ago, art sparked an evolutionary leap: from creatures reacting moment to moment into beings who could imagine future outcomes, and act on them with confidence. This book shows you how that leap, through art, unfolded and continues to sustain us today.*

** This book would be at fault if it did not address a historical anomaly that cannot be overlooked: when artists turn against themselves and intellectuals against art, i.e., postmodernism and its nihilistic aesthetics.*

III. THE ARGUMENT

Sixteen chapters. *One argument: we evolve through art.*

PART ONE — THE QUEST

1

The Bridge to Humanity

Early humans began to draw visual cues with no utilitarian purpose, opening the doorway to contemplation and self-awareness.

2

Future States

The *Lion Man*, the first figurative artwork, asked a question no other animal had: what do I want to be?

3

Trepidation

Against every obstacle, with no payoff and even the risk of being branded insane, art happened anyway. 40,000 years on, its value is still not well understood.

4

Awakening

Art reaches the core spirit of anyone who looks. We take a peek at the ineffable, irresistible pull that draws an artist to create.

5

The Wizards

The wizards are the great mentors who tap a young artist's potential and transmit hard-won techniques. Often unsung, they carry the inner workings of art forward.

6

Cultivation

Civilization nourished art to new heights, but also began to domesticate the artist and harness art for propaganda. A fascinating departure was the brief humanist moment of Akhenaten and the sculptor Thutmose.

PART TWO — PSYCHOLOGICAL POWER PLAYS

7

Visual Art Is a PsyOp

Art is the original PsyOp, a covert language that stealthily enters your emotions, perceptions, and thoughts. This chapter translates it, with the unexpected gift of a heightened intimacy with art.

8

The Nude

The nude is how art shows the whole, real human being, private and universal at once. In the hands of the masters it becomes the highest thing art can reach: the sublime made so real you could almost touch it.

9

Those Who Destroy Art

This chapter examines who destroys art, and why.

10

From the Sublime to the Ridiculous

The sublime is the most important concept in aesthetics. Yet how it is projected by philosophers, artists, and institutions can rise to pinnacles or descend to the absurd.

11

Kant

Kant divorced the sublime from art and radically changed its meaning into nihilism. The result was postmodernism, and this chapter shows the connections between his concepts of the sublime and postmodern artworks.

PART THREE — FREEDOM

12

Deliverance

Art history is messy, not a straight line. In the 19th century Courbet stood out against Kant's tragic influence, boldly integrating ends and means toward freedom.

13

Evolution: Vermeer and the French Impressionists

Vermeer and the French Impressionists evolved our perception of light and color, and the benefit to us is that we come to see the real world more richly.

14

Evolution: Contemporaries

Figurative art is alive and still evolving. Six contemporary masters, each innovating in perception, emotion, and the human spirit—their works fully exemplify art as an end in itself.

15

The Sublime

The heart of this book is that art integrates senses, emotions, and thought, and at its best, the sublime awakens us to our unknown potential and the desire to evolve.

16

Conclusion

Art is a telescope projecting us into our far-distant future.

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IV. AN EXCERPT

From the *Conclusion*

This book has shown how visual art touches all parts of our psyche. And if we look deep enough we can see our soul's DNA is created from these elements that artists developed. It makes up a kind of code, language or visual grammar, that having been once undertaken shows us more deeply who we are, where we came from and where we are going. Art is our ideal friend, lover, guide, and mentor. Art even acts as a chameleon, it is a mirror that shows us ourselves, and morphs into a telescope projecting us into our far-distant future.

V. THE LINEAGE

The voices *the book draws on.*

Akhenaten

14th century BC

humanism

Plato

428 — 348 BC

the dialogues

Aristotle

384 — 322 BC

eudaemonia

Polykleitos

5th century BC

the canon

Giorgio Vasari

1511 — 1574

the artist lives

Immanuel Kant

1724 — 1804

the protagonist

Edmund Burke

1729 — 1797

enfant terrible

Vincent van Gogh

1853 — 1890

the letters

Joseph Campbell

1904 — 1987

the hero's journey

Ayn Rand

1905 — 1982

the ego

Stephen Hicks

b. 1960

the strategist

Boone Cutler

1971 — 2025

PsyOp

VI. THE DISTINCTION

Take what is useful. *Leave the rest.*

THIS BOOK DOES NOT —

Treat art as decoration or entertainment.

Apologize for the greatness of figurative art.

Grant postmodernism a place in art's evolution.

THIS BOOK DOES —

Art shows us more deeply who we are.

Demystifies art history, making it feel real.

Conveys how great artworks transcend millennia.

Reduce aesthetics to personal taste.

Leave representational artists without a philosophical defense.

Shows how Kant fathered postmodernism by disfiguring the sublime.

Reveals the wonder of sublime art, past and ongoing.

VII. WHAT READERS SAID

Early *responses*.

"Beautifully executed from its beginning glimpse of the artists' drawings in ancient caves to examples of extraordinary contemporary artists and their works. Art, history, and how to experience the joy of life, all in one place."

ELAINE RING

"Newberry's perspective of an artist's knowledge gives ETA the features of a philosophy of art, art history, and science of its progress woven into a narrative of human nature."

RICHARD CAMERON

"Evolution Through Art is a history of art, but it is also a psychology of art. It answers the question: What can art do for us? What makes it really special is that it treats art through the eyes of an artist."

KURT KEEFNER

"Newberry's expansive descriptions of detailed elements in different paintings, light, shadow, colors, atmospheric tonalities, linear edges, perspective, made me want to dash to the actual museum, stand before each one in person again, and look anew."

MARK

"If you want to carry one book through your life, and read it again with better understanding and joy, and again, this is the book!"

PETIA LILOVA MATSCHKE

VIII. THE AUTHOR

Michael Newberry.

Michael Newberry is a humanist figurative artist with 55 years of full-time professional practice. He was a Professor of Art at Otis College of Art and Design and is the author of six books including *Newberry Color Theory* and *Art: Modern, Postmodern and Beyond* with philosopher Stephen R. C. Hicks. He has created over 1,500 documented artworks and sold over 800 works.

With a lifetime of artistic practice and integrity, Newberry brings a civilizational perspective to examining the 40,000-year legacy of art. He lives and paints in Idyllwild, California.

IX. QUESTIONS

Reasonable questions, *answered plainly.*

01.

Who is this book for?

Anyone who has ever stood in front of a great painting and felt something they couldn't explain. Artists who want to understand the philosophical foundations of what they do. Readers who suspect postmodern art is missing something important and want to know what and why.

02.

Do I need an art background to read it?

No. The book examines artworks with you, with patient curiosity and plain language. What it asks of you is close looking and contemplation.

03.

Is it academic?

Not exactly. It is written by a working artist who has spent 55 years solving the problems the book discusses. Yet it draws on the philosophers Aristotle and Kant, and on historical sources, with an extensive bibliography and index.

04.

Is it available in print?

Yes, the paperback edition is available on Amazon. The Kindle edition is \$9.99 and available for instant download.

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