

Adventist Philosophy of Art

The Christian view of creation and good and evil can be reflected in art. A belief in God's creatorship influences our perception of our environment, of ourselves, and of our relationship to Him. This view leads us to respond to Him aesthetically. Appreciation of beauty originates with God and we respond because we are made in His image. His image includes creativity; therefore, we find a need and desire to create artistic objects as we reflect on our aesthetic experiences, especially the ones in the outdoor world of nature.

Adventist Rationale for Art Education

- * Art has intrinsic value. It is fundamental to a complete Adventist education.
- * Art education provides experiences, knowledge, and a way of knowing God, not found in any other area of the curriculum.
- * Art education provides a basic knowledge of aesthetic concepts and principles which give students an analytical tool to apply to their social and spiritual environment.
- * Art involves students intellectually, personally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- * Art education connects the student to God's creativity through nature study as he sees the artistic principles in God's creation and the love of God in displaying such beauty to humanity.
- * Art education provides knowledge and skills that transfer to other disciplines and Christian life situations.
- * Art helps students develop self-worth and the ability to express themselves and their Christian experiences.

If art is from God and is given to all to help them discover their identity, their worth, and their creative potential, its pursuit can reinforce our concept of God and develop our relationship with Him. As we acknowledge Him and our love for Him, our artistic sensitivity is heightened. Appreciation of God's revelation in nature, with its unity and beauty, brings us to an awareness that all individuals are unique, of great value, all are part of God's wonderful creation and entitled to salvation.

- * Art connects us to the fundamental concerns of humanity, and leads us to a deeper comprehension of our culture and our church family and ourselves.
- * Art education allows students to satisfy one of humanity's fundamental needs for more than mere existence — to exercise their God-given desire to achieve and create.

