

Apocrypha

The opening chapter of "Apocrypha" delves into the profound mystery and enigmatic nature of artistic creation, challenging our perceptions of art and the artists behind masterworks. It opens by establishing a universal reverence for iconic artists, whose extraordinary abilities and output appear almost divine, beyond the grasp of mere mortals. This awe-inspiring view distances us from the reality that the creation of art is shrouded in mystery, often unknown even to the artists themselves. The narrative dispels the myth that there is a definitive understanding or a singular method behind the creation of great art, underscoring the fact that each piece comes into being through processes and inspirations that are beyond explanation.

The chapter further critiques our tendency to glorify artists and their creative rituals, suggesting that such stories are more fiction than fact, born out of our need to make sense of the inexplicable. It presents the case that art, in its essence, is an unpredictable and natural phenomenon, one that cannot be fully comprehended or replicated through any fixed method. It argues against the romanticization of artists' personal struggles or methods as the keys to their genius, asserting that art's true value lies in individual expression rather than in the replication of perceived greatness.

"Apocrypha" also explores the notion that artists and their contributions cannot be fully measured against historical legends, as doing so overlooks the inherent humanity and imperfections shared by all creators. The text emphasizes that art is an ever-evolving medium, its meaning and significance fluid over time, with each viewer bringing their own interpretation. This perspective challenges the reader to accept the unknown and uncontrollable aspects of art-making, encouraging the embrace of creativity without the constraints of history's narratives or the comparison to mythical artistic figures.

In essence, the chapter advocates for a liberation from the myths and misunderstandings that surround artistic creation, urging artists to focus on self-expression and to acknowledge the inherent changeability and subjectivity within art. It concludes with a reflection on the unknowable nature of art's impact and meaning, inviting both creators and viewers to make and interpret art freely, without the burden of defining or understanding it completely.