

Greatness

Greatness unfolds in the exploration of creating for oneself, likening the act of making art to building a solitary, yet beautiful, dwelling on a mountaintop. The essence of greatness in art is captured through a personal commitment to excellence, absent the expectation of external validation. It's an intimate process, where one's taste and vision are the sole guides, crafting every detail, from the materials chosen to the final touches, as a form of personal fulfillment and expression.

This chapter delves into the subjective nature of greatness, emphasizing that art's value is determined not by universal standards, but by the individual's satisfaction with their work. It suggests that the true measure of art lies in its ability to resonate with its creator, rather than its ability to appeal to a broader audience or fit within the commercial confines of what is considered popular or profitable. The text argues against the pursuit of art for commercial success or recognition, proposing that genuine creativity flounders under the weight of expectations, fear of criticism, and attachment to outcomes.

Moreover, it confronts the dilemma faced by artists tangled between the desire to innovate and the constraints imposed by society, resources, and their own aspirations. Here, greatness is presented not as a comparison to others' work or adherence to trends but as a devotion to making the best possible with what one has, driven by a pure intention to create something meaningful for oneself.

Rooted in the philosophy that artistry is a solitary journey, this chapter advocates for a return to the intrinsic motivations behind creativity. By encouraging artists to focus on their personal connection to their work rather than external approval or success metrics, it proposes a paradigm where the act of creation is a sacred, sincere offering to oneself.