

Non-Competition

"Non-Competition" delves into the distinctive nature of art as a reflection of the individual creator, arguing that competition is incongruous in the realm of artistic endeavor. The chapter emphasizes the personalized journey of each artist, stating that each piece of art is an extension of the artist's identity and, therefore, incomparable to the works of others. This distinctiveness renders the concept of competition irrelevant, as the objective of art is not to surpass others but to embody and express the uniqueness of its creator.

The narrative acknowledges the common perspective that competition can drive artists to excel beyond their current capabilities, suggesting that the desire to outdo others can sometimes motivate artists to push their creative boundaries. However, it challenges this notion by arguing that such competitiveness operates on a detrimental vibrational level. It posits that striving to outperform peers does not foster genuine greatness or well-being. Drawing on Theodore Roosevelt's insight, the chapter highlights how comparison can rob individuals of joy, questioning the value of creating art with the intent to overshadow others.

Conversely, the chapter introduces a more positive form of inspiration that comes from admiration rather than competition. It suggests that being inspired by the achievements of fellow artists can elevate an individual's ambitions and creative output—a sentiment encapsulated by Brian Wilson's reaction to the Beatles' "Rubber Soul". Wilson's experience illustrates how witnessing excellence in one's field can propel an artist towards achieving their personal best without the negative implications associated with competition. This alternative energy of aspiring to meet or exceed the standards set by remarkable works is presented as a healthier, more productive force in the artistic process.