

Rules

The essence of creativity and the pursuit of artistic innovation lie at the heart of examining and often challenging the conventions and rules that define different genres and mediums of art. This exploration begins with distinguishing between the immutable laws of math and science and the mutable rules of art, which serve more as guidelines than absolute truths. These artistic rules, shaped by culture, genre, and individual teachers or influencers, are not designed to constrain creativity but to guide it momentarily, always subject to scrutiny and change for the sake of better expression.

The chapter discusses the tendency within art to adhere to conventions that dictate the parameters of what art 'should' be—whether it be the length and structure of a song, the accepted materials and presentation of paintings, or the standardized formats of books and films. However, it underscores the point that true innovation arises not from following these conventions but from stepping outside of them, from seeing past the established rules to create something unique and groundbreaking. It encourages artists to value and develop their own voice rather than conforming to the average or expected, highlighting how the most memorable artists and artworks are often those that defy societal norms and expectations.

Furthermore, the text delves into the deeper, often subconscious rules that artists comply with, absorbed through culture, upbringing, and emulation of admired figures. The danger, it points out, lies not in the rules themselves but in the unexamined adherence to them, which can stifle creativity and innovation. Artists are called to continually challenge their methodologies and assumptions, to remain flexible and open to new possibilities that diverge from their established processes or formulas.

In conclusion, maintaining a critical stance towards both visible and hidden rules is positioned as essential for artistic growth. By questioning and testing these boundaries, artists can ensure their work remains dynamic, innovative, and true to their unique perspective. It's about holding every rule as breakable and seeing beyond the familiar to what might become. This reflective and questioning approach not only preserves the spirit of innovation but also enriches the artist's journey, allowing for endless exploration and discovery in the realm of creative expression.