

Submerge (The Great Works)

"Submerge" from "The Great Works" emphasizes the significance and impact of deliberately choosing to immerse oneself in high-quality artistic creations across different mediums. It advocates for making a conscious decision to expand one's awareness by actively seeking beauty, depth, and learning through engagement with the world's greatest works—be it literature, film, paintings, or architecture. The text does not conform to a static definition of the canon of great works; instead, it acknowledges that greatness is subjective and evolves over time and space. However, the underlying principle is clear: exposure to exceptional art invites personal growth and opens pathways to new possibilities.

The chapter outlines a practice of selection, suggesting that if one were to replace daily news consumption with reading classic literature for a year, the individual's ability to recognize and appreciate quality would be significantly refined. This concept extends beyond art; it also applies to the choice of companions, conversations, and even thoughts. Each decision we make influences our capability to discern levels of quality, ultimately guiding us toward what is truly deserving of our limited time and attention in a world saturated with information.

"Submerge" isn't just a call to appreciate art; it's a philosophy for living with intention. By carefully curating our experiences and the content we consume, we cultivate our taste and sensitivity towards the finer things in life, distinguishing good from very good, and very good from great. The chapter posits that through this practice, not only do we enrich our personal experiences, but we also enhance our overall quality of life by focusing on what truly matters and bringing a deeper sense of meaning and satisfaction into our daily existence.