

# Submerge (The Great Works)

Immersing oneself in high-caliber artistic and intellectual creations is a transformative practice that fosters depth, refinement, and a heightened sense of appreciation for beauty. The chapter *Submerge* from *The Great Works* underscores the power of intentional engagement with masterful works across various mediums, from literature and music to architecture and film. It suggests that by consciously selecting and absorbing content of exceptional quality, we refine our ability to recognize brilliance and elevate our own creative and intellectual pursuits. This concept rests on the principle that exposure to excellence, whether in art or thought, shapes our perceptions, influences our perspectives, and opens pathways to broader possibilities in both creative and personal endeavors. The idea is that our surroundings and what we consume daily influence the way we think, feel, and create, making it vital to be mindful of the kind of art, media, and intellectual material we allow into our lives.

The text challenges the notion of a fixed canon, acknowledging that greatness is fluid, evolving across cultures, time periods, and personal experiences. However, it firmly argues that some works stand as timeless testaments to human ingenuity and emotional depth, and immersing oneself in these masterpieces has tangible benefits. If, for instance, one were to replace the daily consumption of social media and surface-level entertainment with classic literature, philosophical discourse, or symphonies, the long-term effect would be a profound shift in thought patterns and emotional intelligence. By curating what we consume, we not only cultivate a richer intellectual life but also develop a keener ability to distinguish between the mediocre and the truly magnificent. This form of conscious engagement is not limited to artistic appreciation but extends into all areas of life, affecting our ability to think critically, solve problems, and make meaningful connections with the world around us.

Beyond art and literature, the chapter expands this philosophy to include daily choices—our conversations, social interactions, and even inner dialogues. The quality of our surroundings and the influences we allow into our lives ultimately shape our capacity for appreciation and discernment. Engaging with deep and thought-provoking ideas, rather than fleeting distractions, strengthens our ability to recognize substance and depth in all areas of life. This practice of deliberate selection serves as an internal compass, guiding us toward enrichment rather than empty stimulation, fostering an awareness of what truly deserves our time and energy. The more one surrounds themselves with meaningful discussions, challenging ideas, and profound artistic experiences, the greater their ability to recognize and produce work of lasting significance.

*Submerge* extends beyond a call to appreciate great works; it presents a framework for intentional living. By thoughtfully curating our experiences and environment, we elevate not just our taste, but our overall quality of life. Much like an artist refining their craft through exposure to masterworks, we refine our sense of meaning by seeking out that which inspires and challenges us. The chapter argues that, through this practice, we develop a greater sensitivity to life's finer details, allowing us to recognize beauty, depth, and excellence in unexpected places. Instead of passively absorbing whatever content is placed in front of us, we are encouraged to take an active role in shaping our intellectual and emotional landscapes.

This philosophy ultimately champions the idea that we are shaped by what we choose to engage with. Just as an artist immersed in the study of the greats is more likely to create something enduring, a person who surrounds themselves with meaningful experiences is more likely to live with depth and purpose. By submerging ourselves in the finest aspects of human creativity and thought, we transform not only our perceptions but also our potential, making the pursuit of excellence a way of life rather than a passive experience. In this way, *Submerge* invites us to become not just consumers of art and knowledge but participants in a continual dialogue with the greatest minds and works in history, ensuring that our creative and intellectual growth remains limitless.