



Humanities: Art and Architecture

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Part I: Art

Classical architecture is important because it represents two of the greatest civilizations that have ever existed; the civilizations of the Greeks and Romans. I have chosen a building that represents classical architecture but turned upside down (a very unique selection). This building is a museum in Orlando, Florida that has rows and columns and symmetry constructed in the historical, classical nature of both Roman and Grecian architecture. After getting over the initial shock of what you are seeing (an upside down building), you can see the engineering and design that went into the construction. See picture below:



Assessing some of the important architectural elements of the building, there are some uncanny resemblances to the Pantheon and the Acropolis of Athens, and that is what I

will briefly discuss.

The most recognizable architectural element you will notice is the columns, the four Ionic order columns (if you look real close you can see the volutes). Both stone and marble were so abundant and readily available during the classical era that architects were able to build extremely large, widely laid out buildings; buildings that really were a symbol of mankind's architectural ingenuity as well as being a sign of a successful and powerful civilization. Secondly you can see a pediment that is attached to the columns. The pediment was often labeled with the name or function of the great building (on this building it happens to be WONDERWORKS). The pediment was also constructed with enormous magnitude; in such that it sometimes spanned the entire width of the front of the building (good examples of this are the Pantheon and the Parthenon). Thirdly, every great building needed an entry-way in to the interior, thus this became known as the vestibule. The vestibule was just a small foyer or small hallway that led from the front entrance to the main inner body of the building. Lastly, you can see the windows and designs that are meant to represent Grecian architecture during the peak of their history. The final thought is that classical architecture still greatly influences our American culture (as well as many other cultures throughout the world), and you can see it almost anywhere if you know what to look for; the WONDERWORKS building is just one simple example of this.

Part II: Architecture

There is no escaping it, viewing an artistic masterpiece like the Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci or seeing a picture of "The Creation of Adam", by Michelangelo,

invokes deep thought, admiration, and respect not only for the artist, but also for humanity. It makes you proud to know humans have the ability to transcend creativity into artistic divinity. I am an art lover, having many Dali reproduction pieces throughout my apartment. On the artist Dali (referencing our book), Dali was a surrealistic painter that put everyday objects together in almost a dreamlike fashion. Dali is most famously known for his melting clocks and something he was personally known for was his crazy mustache, of which he said he acquired his artistic inspiration. I would like to briefly discuss a Dali piece that moves me, and that is the “Metamorphosis of Narcissus”. See picture below:



The “Metamorphosis of Narcissus”, is definitely a representation of surrealism, where normal objects become double, or even triple images. The viewer can look at the picture one second and see a certain image (that has one particular meaning) and the

very next second you can see a completely different image (that has a totally different meaning). For example, in the painting you see two hands; one hand coming up from the water holding a nut, and another hand coming up from the earth holding an egg. With a second look, you can see the hand coming from the water turn into a man that is kneeling with his head on his knee and the other hand is a woman kneeling with her head on her knee. Delving deeper into the painting you will notice there is a dog eating something off the ground (it looks like meat, perhaps representing the dead things in life). There is also a group of people meeting together in a social setting (possibly meaning that human beings are social creatures). Veering off to the back right you will see a statue that seems to be turned away from the social gathering (conceivably meaning that the artist of the statue was an outcast from society or felt alone). If you look real close towards the front you will see little black ants (I have yet to determine a good meaning for them). I love the Dali artwork, and will continue to assess art well into the future.

Art is important, not just because it is a creative outlet for the artist themselves, but also because, for many us, it is the only way we get to experience such happiness, such thought provoking masterpieces of humanity. Art is a true historical marker of time itself, representing the artistic innovation and creativity that is wrapped around the religious, the political, and the social chronological timeline of humans; art is the story of us.

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