

# Essential Art

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## Summary

The author looks at art as more than a mere encounter. Looking at the ways in which art can create a bridge between people and cultures as, at this time in history, people are increasingly able to mix between cultures, meeting, and melting together. He asks how art, especially music, can pull away from the homogenization of cultures and dig deep back to its roots, and geographical localities. Can Western music (as an example) become less of a manufactured creation and can music makers seek out more traditional instruments and ways of playing, so that human beings can once again discover the true nature of their connection with music? He notes that in order to create this universal bridge, it is essential for humans to be able to connect to the spirituality of traditional music, as a means to unite with a higher—or more fundamental—reality, (for instance Truth, Beauty, Goodness) and to move away from the contemporary commoditization of music and cultures as is seen in modern society. To him the purpose of art is not to make the individual disappear or to erase the culture or environment from which that individual hails but to celebrate the uniqueness of those aspects in the art form and to let the artist use those aspects in the creative process.