

SUMMARY:

ART AS EXPRESSION OF SOCIAL INTENTIONS

Art is without any doubt an innate expression of the human being. One of the principal impulses behind its origin is the conscious presence of phenomenology in phases relating, above all, to the instincts and to intuition. If we extend these definitions to the grouping of men, to the periods furthest away from our present age, one will always be able to remark a more or less visible correspondence between general conditions of life in the group-community-society and development of the arts in each country.

Formerly, one saw a certain clear influence exerted by religious beliefs and even by different philosophies in the sphere of artistic creation. The gradual transformation of societies everywhere has not left art unspared -- on the contrary. Even if, in creating their works, artists sometimes believe that what they produce is wholly unattached from their surroundings, a basic examination will always reveal aspects that have been exactly determined by the nature of the environment. During wars and revolutionary upheavals, their influence on art is invariably seen.

These phenomena do not bear within them any idea of servitude. We should not forget that other social manifestations are as greatly influenced by the changes that take place in the course of life. Nevertheless, notice must be paid to another phenomenon: while expressing the different phases of any social evolution in its own language, art often manages to present events and concepts in definite forms -- given to them by the artist -- which will afterwards receive the consideration of society because of the ethical, and therefore constructive, value to be found there. There doubtless exists a kind of inter-relation between values and events of the community and in the field of art.