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ABSTRACT

What is Art?: An approach to the Art Gallery of Sudbury and Friedrich Nietzsche's
Perspectives

Exhibition of artworks and art-education are two of the activities that the Art Gallery of Sudbury develops. This paper explores into each of them in order to discover what art is for the Art Gallery. The perspective of the organization about this issue is compared with some aspects of Nietzsche's aesthetic theory.

Regarding the exhibitions that the Art Gallery promotes, there are varied tendencies in art. However, most of the artworks that the Art Gallery shows are artworks that provoke rational thoughts as well as instinctive delights and emotions. In this way, it could be said that the Art Gallery values that type of art over other ones. Nietzsche would agree with that perspective. According to him, the most valuable art is that that suggests the game of Apollonian and Dionysian forces of nature and provokes diversity of experiences on the viewer.

There is another coincidence between the Art Gallery and Nietzsche's philosophy; it is the fact that art, as appeal to primal and instinctive feelings of human beings, is the only point of departure to any other type of attitude, behavior or activity in life. In this way, education and moral are consequences of that primal posture towards life that art looks for.

However, although that perspective seems to be the main philosophy of the Art Gallery, the method that it uses into the art classes emphasizes the teaching of techniques over the instinctive and creative exploration. That inclination in art classes would contradict Nietzsche's ideas with respect to art and education.