

The Bullshit Artists vs. Artists

by: Jack Tupac Pennington

There has always been a lot of controversy as to who can be considered an artist, but today's youth generations seem to be under the impression that a hyped up commercial front will shield them from actually having to do any work at all. I recently threw an art exhibition in Farnham and was surprised by the way students of art were more than willing to have philosophical conversation about their work but were unable to show any of their material. I found this really surprising because I expect that the University ask of students to supply a portfolio of their work. Maybe we should examine the definition of art and if there is one at all that today's generations can agree on. Lets look at it from the point of view of history and the introduction of the word "art" which derived from Middle English a French word introduced to explain the sciences. It was particularly used by people of higher classes to explain and discuss the many avenues pertaining to the sciences such as philosophy, religion, biology, mathematics, logic, ethics and the list goes on. The Oxford Dictionary says "a human creative skill or its application; creative activity." Under the preface of this knowledge it is even more surprising to have discussions with artists whom claim that art is something, which invokes emotion from its audiences. I argue that if I piss on someone's feet that will surely evoke emotion but does that make me an artist. Artists who believe that they are the first to produce art that is unique perceive our society, but the fact is that their work is just a combination of techniques used by artists throughout history. If an artist can reflect on his/her techniques in a historical context they might have a chance at exhibiting their art to a public that can understand the work behind the artist. At the same time reflect on the way society plays its role today in comparison with the past he has a fleeting chance of making a statement about the many issues that surround us as a civilization today. Art is supposed to create reflection in the people of the given society where the work is being exhibited, in effect a blue print to the emotions of the society. I respect artists that have studied and are aware of the techniques that surround their work and enjoy viewing their perceptions of the world. We live in a society that places a high relevance on individuals but forgets to include in its philosophy a state of activity that underlines their thoughts on how things should be. I come from the United States and the culture of Instant Gratification Nation is just a click away so I know how people

perceive their individuality. They perceive it as the answer to all without thought to others in a very personal little world. Plug in your laptop, put the earpieces in, turn on the television, pick up a mobile but whatever you do don't take the time to enjoy life which consists of all the arts.