

## I. Philosophy of Visual Arts

*Art* is defined as products of human creativity, the creation of beautiful or significant things.<sup>1</sup> The natural world is adorned in beauty and splendor. Mankind, since the beginning of history, has used visual arts as a predominant mode of expression. The visual art communicates to the viewer. Murals, paintings, sculptures, tapestries, architectural designs etc. are all a part cultures and civilizations.

## II. Instructional Goals and Biblical Truths

As Creator, God communicates His love for beauty and detail through His creation. Mankind possesses God-given creativity. Mankind, brimming with expression, leaves behind a legacy with each passing generation.

1. God is the Creator. We are made in His image and are therefore **creative** by nature.

- A. Genesis 1  
The creation of the world
- B. Genesis 1:27  
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- C. Isaiah 45:18  
<sup>8</sup> For this is what the LORD says—  
he who created the heavens,  
he is God;  
he who fashioned and made the earth,  
he founded it;  
he did not create it to be empty,  
but formed it to be inhabited—  
he says: "I am the LORD,  
and there is no other."
- D. John 1:3  
Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

2. Visual expression is used to creatively **communicate** ideas through design, form, and symbols.

- A. Genesis 9: 12-15  
12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=art>

- B. Exodus 37  
Description of the ark of the covenant, complete with dimensions and materials.
- C. Psalm 19:1  
1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- D. Revelation 1:12-16  
12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man,"<sup>[b]</sup> dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

3. Visual arts are a form of worship and reflect personality.

- A. Psalm 19:1  
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- B. Ephesians 2:10  
For we are God's **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- C. Ecclesiastes 9:10  
Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

4. Art is expressed through the knowledge and **use of materials**, techniques, and processes. God requires no materials to create, mankind does.

- A. Psalm 102:25  
<sup>25</sup> In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
- B. Exodus 25-28  
The building of the tabernacle.
- C. Colossian 1:16-17  
<sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- D. Hebrews 11:3  
By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is **seen** was **not** made out of what was visible.

5. God is interested in **beauty** and is pleased with art.<sup>2</sup>

- A. Genesis 1,2

The creation of the world.

- B. Exodus 25-28

The building of the Tabernacle.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. <sup>3</sup> These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; <sup>4</sup> blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; <sup>5</sup> ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows <sup>[a]</sup>; acacia wood; <sup>6</sup> olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; <sup>7</sup> and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

<sup>8</sup> "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

<sup>9</sup> Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

- C. Isaiah 45:11-12

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says—  
the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:  
Concerning things to come,  
do you question me about my children,  
or give me orders about the work of my hands?

<sup>12</sup> It is I who made the earth  
and created mankind upon it.  
My own hands stretched out the heavens;  
I marshaled their starry hosts.

- D. Revelation 21

The New Jerusalem of gold and jewels.

6. Visual arts displays God's splendor and is a form of worship.

- A. Genesis 1

The creation story.

- B. I Chronicles 16: 29-34

29 ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name.  
Bring an offering and come before him;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of his <sup>[d]</sup> holiness.  
30 Tremble before him, all the earth!  
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.  
31 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

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<sup>2</sup> Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Biblical Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 332.

32 Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;  
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!  
33 Then the trees of the forest will sing,  
they will sing for joy before the LORD,  
for he comes to judge the earth....  
34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

- C. Ecclesiastes 9:10

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, <sup>[a]</sup> where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

7. No object created by man or God is to become an **object of worship**.<sup>2</sup>

- A. Exodus 20:4-6

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- B. Isaiah 44

12 The blacksmith takes a tool  
and works with it in the coals;  
he shapes an idol with hammers,  
he forges it with the might of his arm.  
He gets hungry and loses his strength;  
he drinks no water and grows faint.  
13 The carpenter measures with a line  
and makes an outline with a marker;  
he roughs it out with chisels  
and marks it with compasses.  
He shapes it in the form of man,  
of man in all his glory,  
that it may dwell in a shrine.

- C. Romans 1:25

<sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

8. God uses **diverse and unique artistic capabilities**, as we submit to Him.<sup>2</sup>

- A. Genesis 6

God tells Noah to build the ark.

- B. Exodus 31:5, 35:30-33

Building of the Tabernacle.

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<sup>2</sup> Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Biblical Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 332.

- C. Romans 6:13  
And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
9. Visual art has a history belonging to particular **cultures, times, and places.**<sup>3</sup>
- A. Genesis 11  
Building of the Tower of Babel.
  - B. Exodus 1:11-12  
11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.
  - C. Exodus 31:5, 35:30-33  
10 "All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded:

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<sup>3</sup> Michigan Benchmarks. <http://www.michigan.gov>