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Mr. Greco

English III

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Art is What Makes us All Human

In “A Cog in the Machine of Creation,” by Wes Studi, a renowned actor, explains how he believes that art is created from three components of the human mind, “The mind, the heart, and past experiences.” Considering humans are uniquely aware of our own consciousness, we are able to reflect on our feelings and what we’ve gone through in our lives. He argues that interconnectedness is a big reason for why and how we create art. When weighing these ideas, we determine the purpose and validity of artwork. Wes has wondered if acting is a true art form as he is only acting upon the ideas of someone who has created a script. He determined that an actor is merely a cog in the machine of many people who work behind the scenes; who write the scripts, do the makeup, direct and film. All of these different cogs are needed in order to make the ultimate machine of art that is a film. All of the cylinders needed in a car to combust. All of the stars needed to make a galaxy. We create in all kinds of ways, and the most magical thing is that we work together to make something bigger than ourselves.

With all that being said, though an artist may be born with a creative mind, I believe that there is influence in the decision to create work. Whether it is our childhood or the experiences we have throughout our lives, there are inspirations to push us to

create something. That is why I raise you Bob Ross, the infamous soft spoken permed and prepped artist. Here is his artwork “Final Reflections”, created season 1 episode 13 on “The Joy of Painting” in 1983.



The artwork depicts a concave of trees around a seemingly small lake, white icy mountains following in the background, seamlessly blending in color with the equally light blue sky. Though the art is not particularly mind blowing or contemplative, I feel there is something special about it. Certainly if I were in my “final reflective” moment, staring at this beautiful scene of nature would be fulfilling beyond words. You can almost hear the songs of finches and the breeze of crisp air. What I appreciate most about Bob’s work is his love of nature and beautiful scenery, which I feel comes from his experiences with near death in the US air force. It’s simple, it’s easy on the eyes. You can think hard about it; but you also don’t. It’s artwork fit for the kitchen wall. This artwork is what it is.

So what does this have to do with Mr. Studi's "A Cog in the Machine of Creation"? I believe it is not merely the artwork that shows us, but it was the intention of the painting. It becomes clear when you realize that it was painted on a TV show completely free, airing to millions of people at home. Why, then, would Bob Ross paint on a TV show for free? It is because he wanted to teach other people his love of painting, hoping they would see the magic as well. Everyday people who would initially never see the value in art were given a glance into what made it so special. Bob Ross told us it was okay to make mistakes, that with art the sky's the limit. Art is the therapy in which we can release ourselves and our experiences onto a canvas, judgment free. Though Bob Ross is not particularly regarded in the art world, he is loved by people who would otherwise not bat an eye at art.

Works Cited

[Studi, Wes "A Cog in the Machine of Creation"](#)

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