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Exploring the Immortality of Art

In the article "Art Never Dies," jazz musician Sonny Rollins emphasizes the enduring nature of art compared to the transient aspects of politics and technology. Rollins asserts that art provides wisdom and a connection to history, bridging generations and lifetimes. Pablo Picasso exemplifies Rollins' argument as an enduring influence that continues to captivate art enthusiasts worldwide, solidifying his status as one of the 20th century's most influential artists. Rollins discusses art's timelessness, and Picasso serves as a perfect illustration that art's meaning remains unchanged regardless of its age.



Guernica (1937) Pablo Picasso

This point is illustrated in "Guernica", an exquisite work of art created by Pablo Picasso. This piece was created to demonstrate the devastating effects of the Spanish Civil war. When first observing the piece one can find a distinct style characterized by a chaotic composition and fragmented abstract imagery, representing the horror, dread, and suffering of war. The use of monochromatic tones adds to the sadness of the atmosphere. Symbolism plays a crucial role in this piece, with elements like the distorted figures, fractured objects, and broken and anguished animals symbolizing the brutality of conflict. This intricate work by Picasso exemplifies Sonny Rollins' claim that art possesses the capacity to convey the essence of history across multiple generations. Similar to the intricate and complex nature of jazz music, art often lends itself to diverse interpretations amongst viewers. However, beneath these variances lies an enduring and profound significance, meaning, and context, a timeless message that transcends and resonates through the ages.



Les Femmes d'Alger (O Version O) (1907) Pablo Picasso

To illustrate Rollins point further, I chose Pablo Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger,". This piece is a departure from traditional art, this is evident in its fragmented depiction of the female figure. This unique composition challenges the established, traditional norms of female representation. The disruptive and disturbing style present in this piece challenges conventional beauty standards with distorted features, and stares filled with judgment rather than obedient innocence. Furthermore reflecting a sense of severe intensity. Picasso's innovation strongly illustrates the opinion that art should adhere to classical ideals, illustrating that art matters because it can defy conventions, spark conversations, and push the boundaries of artistic expression. While this piece may present a distinct concept from contemporary art, it maintains its historical significance, subtly embedded within the intricate layers of paint.



The Weeping Woman (1937) Pablo Picasso

In Pablo Picasso's "The Weeping Woman," Picasso displays a powerful visual language that both illustrates and challenges the opinion expressed by Sonny Rollins in his article "Art Never Dies" regarding the significance of art. Picasso's piece, with its portrayal of anguish and emotion, serves as an example of art's enduring impact on the human journey and experience, corroborating to Rollins' assertion. While at the same time, the abstract and fragmented nature of the painting can be seen as a challenge to the conventional understanding of art's durability and its role in society. This expands on the idea of how "The Weeping Woman" encapsulates both the essence of art's timeless resonance and the complexities of its existence, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of art's enduring importance as discussed by Rollins in the article "Art Never Dies".

Rollins' powerful message about the enduring nature of art, and its' ability to transcend the realms of politics and technology, and its role of providing wisdom and connecting generations has been exemplified through the timeless influence and artworks of Pablo Picasso. Reflecting on Rollins' words and the enduring legacy of artists like Picasso. Throughout the article it becomes evident that art truly stands the test of time, its significance remaining steady regardless of the amount of years passed.

Works Cited

Rollins, Sonny, "Art Never Dies." *The New York Times*, 18 May 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/opinion/sonny-rollins-art.html>

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Note on the use of generative AI:

I used ChatGPT in the process of writing this paper. While I did not borrow directly from the results, I used the following prompts to expand my awareness of how the various Elements of Art and Principles of Design could be applied to a formal analysis of each work. The results helped me make decisions about which elements and principles to emphasize, according to my own process of viewing and interpreting the meaning of each work:

- Reword this sentence to be more concise "..."
- What is a more advanced word for ___?