

The Role of painting in prevention of crime

El rol de la pintura en la prevención del delito

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ABSTRACT

Art has recently been considered as one of the therapeutic methods in medical science. Since one of the most important measures in dealing with criminals is therapeutic and habilitation measures, taking into account my personal interests in art particularly paintings and regarding the effect of artwork creation on human personality. A criminal by creating a work of art, in another word by releasing his personality can retell all hidden secrets or evacuate his inner emotions. Art has the effect of spiritual freshening, ethic and skill education, spare time making for criminals. Therefore, the subject of painting's role in the prevention of crimes is considered to be of high importance which should be examined separately in order to highlight the importance of art and particularly paintings.

Keywords: Art, prevention, art therapy, crime, delinquency.

RESUMEN

El arte ha sido considerado recientemente como uno de los métodos terapéuticos en la ciencia médica. Dado que una de las medidas más importantes para tratar con delincuentes son las medidas terapéuticas y de habilitación, teniendo en cuenta mis intereses personales en el arte, particularmente las pinturas y en relación con el efecto de la creación de obras de arte en la personalidad humana. Un criminal al crear una obra de arte, en otras palabras, al liberar su personalidad, puede volver a contar todos los secretos ocultos o evacuar sus emociones internas. El arte tiene el efecto de renovación espiritual, educación ética y de habilidades, tiempo libre para delincuentes. Por lo tanto, se considera que el tema del papel de la pintura en la prevención de delitos es de gran importancia, que debe examinarse por separado para resaltar la importancia del arte y, en particular, de las pinturas.

Palabras clave: Arte, prevención, terapia de arte, crimen, delincuencia.

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Introduction

Art may have a profound effect on spiritual and moral aspects as well as learning skills and leisure. Sometimes it is used to achieve peace of mind. Many believe that high number of criminal records is partly due to lack of healthy recreation and leisure. Recreation times are appropriate for renewing the spirit and development of trust in society. According to Victor Hugo art may teach young people and student something in order to avoid unpleasant things. Hirsh states that engagement of person in different activities may impede or at least decrease crimes. Painting not only deemed to be effective for normal people but has been an effective instrument for prevention of crimes. For example, in Picasso's paintings during 1935 to 1950 one can find different elements of violence, fear, pain and despair. In fact, art has helped him to be safe. Painting helps people to visualize their conflicts, anxieties, adversities, shortcomings, fears and even wishes in order to find a way to satisfy and perhaps to fight them. Emotional and mental expression of human passion may allow for relief and prevention of crimes. Color in painting is representative of human personality and one can express his/her inner reality with colors, hence painting is an effective factor in crime prevention. Art is considered one of our bovine gifts and has had a tremendous effect on ascendancy and evolution of human being.

Prevention of crime by painting:

Art is the expression of ideas and affection through creation of particular aesthetic qualities in a visual two-dimensional language. Basic elements of this language include: line, shape, color, tone and texture (color is the most important element of painting language). One may create sense of volume, space, light and movement on a flat surface (cavass, board, wall, etc.). How these elements combine is essentially the quality of artistic expression. Each painting either a representation of a real or supernatural phenomena or embodiment of a narrative content or presentation of a dramatic relationship is absolutely abstract i.e. is based on a presenting or implying pattern or design.

Therefore, art in general and painting in particular offers us the ability through which we can perform miracle to ourselves. We can make contact with others by this type of reflection. We describe our unique feelings, ideas and experiences. Creation of an artwork is comforting and help the creator confront with and overcome everyday pressures and difficult situations. Creation of an artwork is a valuable and serious work which improve self-respect of people and construct their identity. Our goal is to use painting for treatment of delinquents and educate them how to create a relation between art and everyday life and to express feeling in order achieve recovery.

Art not only develops the identity of delinquents but is also effective for those who will be exposed to the commitment of crime in the future. For example, it can tremendously relieve pain, stress, tension and anxiety. Aristotle believed: we should practice the education, knowledge and art for self-culture or self-purification (catharsis).

Durkheim considers all arts such as literature, painting, architecture, sculpture, music, theater and cinema as elements of spiritual life of society and parts of culture of society. He goes too far in this path and in all discussions on artists to argue that if human is deprived form what he gained in social life he will descend as animals. It is often believed that an artist lives in art, and the intentions of an individual artist are overtly or covertly represented in a certain artwork. With concept of an artist, artwork is analogous to the product of an original mind that individualizes when artist impresses its uniqueness on this artwork.

Based on this approach, social process theorists believe that crime is the result of inappropriate sociability which eventuate to confliction in social symbols and ultimately results in defective behavior. Theoretical branch of learning maintains that the starting point of this process is learning values, attitudes and behaviors through direct contact with others. Theoretical branch of social control points to the weak relations of young people with main preventive institutions family, schools and coevals deflection.

Consequently, based on theory of social process we are able to prevent crimes through reinforcement of current relationships among youth and main institutions responsible for their sociability. Given what we discussed, aesthetic quality of artworks may improve vitality, self-respect and self-awareness of delinquent. Second, research indicate that when individuals are deeply engaged in activities they enjoy, physiologic factors such as hear beat, blood pressure and tension decline. In addition, creation of an artwork is an opportunity for coordination of eyes and hand and correction of neural paths between hand and brain. According to Freud, artists or painters are essentially people who turn away from reality because they just cannot compromise though disregard of their instinct satisfaction.

Therefore, we are interested to conclude that not only social victims, delinquents, addicted people, etc. belong to society but they suffer considerable stress due to their conditions. But they are all humans and equal in the principle of "being human" and we may benefit from art in general and painting in particular for the recovery of self-confidence, honor and prevention of crime and even help other people to eliminate their isolation.

Therefore, visual art includes different types such as painting, designing, graphic, architecture and photography. For example, there are two basic principle in painting: image and metaphor (symbol), direct perception and ideal interpretation. Artistic attempts in 19s century was based on realism but such attempts lead to the naturalism in literature and impressionism in painting.

Reform soon was used as an effective technic for diagnosis of pathological condition. In general, based on these preliminary diagnoses, numerous systematic methods emerged which today's are called painting examinations. These examinations have a meaningful effect on psychological analysis. In 1925, Nollan Luis started began to used free painting for behavior

analysis of neurotic adults.

Goal in painting and other visual arts is to provide an opportunity for people to freely express their feeling, affections, demands and even knowledge through colors and lines. Painting like other arts serves as a link between internal world and outside realities. Image serves as an intermediate to represent conscious and unconscious past, present and future of an individual and reduce crime in the society. Because human expresses his panic, deficiencies, fears and ultimately his wishes by subjective embodiment and finds a way for their realization and sometimes for opposition, spiritual tragedies of human, if are represented, drawn or discussed in a proper way, may relieve pains and internal pressures and these fears and concerns unconsciously create an context by expression in painting or sculpture through which wishes and tendencies may be satisfied and in turn prevent the commitment of crime.

Prevention of crime, in general, is any action that can prevent commitment of crime. In other words, everything that is against the crime and can reduce its rate.

Prevention of crime is specifically defined by many criminologists. Prevention of crime is “tools or means that help civil government and society to restrain crime by eliminating or limiting crime factors or proper management of environmental (natural of social environment) factors.

In general, numerous tool can be used to prevent crime. At the same time, painting and other visual arts represent the deepest thoughts of human and therefor painting can decrease emotional problems through building a link between internal and external world and increase emotional stability and self-confidence and eliminate emotional arousal. In general, its education can have a substantial influence on an extensive prevention and inexhaustible combat with delinquency.

Art opens a new window to the human and lead human thoughts to other aspects and free human mind from other aspects. According to Tolstoy: in art grief of friendlessness is forgotten.

Regarding the importance of art, art in general meaning, the term of art therapy was introduced by Adrian Hill, British artist and teacher in 1942. He began occupational therapy with the patience were hospitalized in the same room with him. In the US, Margaret Naumburg was pioneer of art therapy who started her work in state institute of psychology under the supervision of a psychiatrist named Nolan D.C. Edith Kramer another famous figure in the US, a distinguished theorist was specialized in children art therapy. In addition Lauretta bender, Paul Schilder and in Europe Lombroso Simon and Prinzhorn were also pioneers in the preliminary artworks for psychological patience. Art therapy, however, is based on the initial theory of a psychologist named Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung.

Art therapy has emerged as a new science in recent years. Art therapy was defined as “effect of art and process of work on awareness of authorities from themselves and confrontation with symptoms of disease and stress” by art therapy association. They believe that artistic activities could increase rational and emotional capabilities in diseases. Art therapy theme is taught universities in some states of US. In the UK, British Association of Art Therapy, trains art therapy students as psychotherapists with focus on psychoanalysis.

However, because we are dealing with painting, we can say psychotherapy through painting was offered and used by Stern. He established the first painting workshop for children in Pars after Second World War which still continue to exist. Stern argues: painting as a tool for psychotherapy is suitable for ill sorted, unstable and educationally retarded children and its results are wonderful. Painting enables delinquent to know his power and ability of creativity and in turn facilitate solving of the problems because he can find a balance for social problems and is less likely to suffer from the pains.

All people do not have the same tendency toward colors. Those who are interested in particular colors are not able to paint a subject which is inconsistent with their favorite colors for example someone whose nature is accustomed to grief is less likely able to represent a delightful subject in his painting but he could manage all the subjects related to the grief. However, delinquent can know himself and find special colors which is not simple at all. For example, in Rembrandt artworks, contrast of light and darkness is seen more than any other contrast, or Poussin colors his paintings with red, white and blue.

Therefore, color in painting is representative of the identity of delinquent and he can express his internal realities using color and painting is an effective world in treatment of delinquency.

Many studies have conducted about painting therapy especially on ill sorted, aggressive children and mental patience. Research conducted in Iowa indicates that painting causes discharge of delinquents and help those were sexually abused have a better look to life. But there are few studies on prevention by art in general sense and by painting in particular sense. As emphasized in the sixth congress of UN on prevention of delinquency and correction of delinquent, more attempts for finding of new approaches and providing better technics of crime prevention is required.

Given the fact that sixth congress exclusively dealt with the crime prevention but no subject or title was raised on prevention by art and specifically by painting so far, we may definitely suggest that painting has an important role in crime prevention.

Socioeconomic council of UN, in its 1993/32 resolution, emphasized on work plan of ninth congress of crime prevention and correction of criminals such as holding a workshop on mass media. In ninth congress, however, art was not referred as a preventative factor.

Conclusion

It can be used as an important tool for criminal treatment and prevention. In this field different surveys have been carried out on psychiatric patients but unfortunately no survey has been carried out about the effect of art specially painting on the behavior of criminals, though criminals are curable by using painting we can turn away them or prevent from crimes and turn back them to a better life till they can live such as other human begins. art can be used as a new science for treatment and diagnosis of crimes as well as fill the leisure time of criminals.

One of the oldest thoughts on prevention of crime is teaching an occupation to criminals. Therefore, if we consider art as an occupation or job and expand it in prisons as a inseparable principle we would be able to treat convicts an even prevent delinquency.

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