

# Intersections: Christianity & Today

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## The Role of the Arts in Our Lives

1. High school students were asked, “Who is your favorite living artist?” None had an answer.  
—Art Calendar July/August 1994
2. “Art is the only way to run away without leaving home.” —Twyla Tharp
3. “Painting is just another way of keeping a diary!” —Pablo Picasso
4. “We don’t see things as they are; we see things as we are.” —Anais Nin
5. “I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn’t say in any other way.”  
—Georgia O’Keefe
6. “Abstract art: A product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered.”  
—Al Capp
7. “[The object of painting is] not to reflect the visible but to make visible.” —Paul Klee
8. “Because a work of art does not aim at reproducing natural appearances, it is not, therefore, an escape from life . . . but an expression of the significance of life, a stimulation to greater effort in living.” —Henry Moore
9. “All profoundly original art looks ugly at first.” —Clement Greenberg
10. “A primitive artist is an amateur whose work sells.” —Grandma Moses
11. “When one is painting, one does not think.” —Raphael Sanzio (1483–1520)
12. “A man paints with his brains and not with his hands.” —Michelangelo (1475–1564)
13. Ayn Rand once wrote “Art is the indispensable medium for the communication of a moral ideal.” Is this what we see in the works of modern artists?
14. What film have you seen that has best conveyed a moral ideal?
15. If you are the writer, director, producer, of the major motion picture, which of the following would best describe your film?
  - A) Daisy Duck Travels to Delaware—a travelogue. (Travel)
  - B) Daisy Duck explores the meaning of romance with Donald. (Romance)
  - C) Daisy Duck in the Great Depression. (History)
  - D) Daisy Duck explains the existential significance of life. (Philosophy)
  - E) Daisy Duck: a martyred hero for our time. (Christianity)
  - F) Daisy Duck: an unwed mother whose children were adopted by Donald. (Decadence)
  - G) Daisy Duck teaches the joy of cooking eggs. (Julia Child)
  - H) Daisy Duck explains her nudist lifestyle. (Textiles)
  - I) Daisy Duck wears chaps. (A Western)
16. The central question: What **for you** is essential in **great** paintings/music/sculpture/literature?
17. One person says that John Singer Sargent’s work is great art. Another says that it is nothing. Is there any objective standard to judge a painting—or is it just everyone’s individual opinion?

(Bonus page: A painting)

Portrait of Carolus-Duran

by one of my favorite artists,

John Singer Sargent

