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# Art and Aesthetics.

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## Unit - 1 :-

Proto history is the period between Prehistory and history. The Prehistoric period includes Stone age. The historic period which includes Bronze age, is the period of Buddha and Mahavira.

Pre history means, writing was not developed. Around 2500 BC, Indian art is considered to have originated during the Peak of Indus valley civilization. Sculpture was first created by Indus Valley civilization. Sculpture in stone and metal, mainly religious has survived the Indian climate, better than any other climate.

The Important characteristic of Indian art is a strong sense of design and includes various forms like

- \* wood work
- \* Pottery
- \* painting
- \* textile arts like woven silk
- \* Sculpture
- \* metal work
- \* music.

Indian Art has been religiously influenced

- Such as \*
- \* Hinduism
  - \* Buddhism
  - \* Jainism

Buddhist art :-

- \* In art and architecture, Stone was used from King Ashoka's time
- \* The 3 elements of Buddhist architecture is.

1) STUPAS: Stone built to celebrate important events or places associated with Buddha and Buddhism

2) CHAITYAS: Shrines or prayer halls

3) ~~MA~~ VIHARAS: Monasteries or places where Buddhist monks dwell.

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The best examples of Stupas are those constructed at

\* Amaravati (Crntur district, Andhra Pradesh)

\* Sanchi (Madya Pradesh)

\* Barhut (Madya Pradesh)

\* Gaya.

One of the most striking architectural remains of ancient India and the earliest and the largest of the 3 Stupas found in Sanchi was built by Ashoka.

Remains of the main Stupa in Kusinagara in (Uttar Pradesh) where Buddha passed away and cremated is believed to contain the bodily remains of Buddha.

The Stupas of Nagarjuna konda and Amaravati both in Crntur district of Andhra shows the difference in structure from those of the North.

The difference in style is due to the 2 main divisions in Buddhism namely Hinayana and Mahayana.

VIHARAS :-

25 of the rock-cut caves of Ajanta are Viharas and are the finest of monasteries. The Portico has curved pillars, walls and ceilings have exquisite paintings.

The Viharas of Ellora dated 400 AD to 7 Century AD have upto 3 Storeys and are the largest of the type. They contain sculptured figures.

Under Mauryan rule, several pillars were constructed to show respect to Buddha.

The Buddhists set the example of dedicating cave temples and this practice was followed by the Hindus and Jains etc. The Buddhist architecture is related to different aspects of Buddha's life, tales associated with him.

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Paintings:- These exquisite paintings or Frescos are to be seen in the caves of Ajanta. The entire surface of the caves is painted and shows the high standard reached in mural painting.

Some of the renowned paintings are that of the Bodhi Sattva holding a lily. (Cave: 1)

Jainism: Founder: Mahavira.  
One of the most common ~~of~~ icons

in Jain art is the image of the seated Tirthankara. A significant symbol used often in Jainism is the Swastika, symbol representing peace and prosperity. The Nazi Party in Germany adopted it as their official logo. Another icon used in Jainism are the Yakshas and Yakshinis, the male and female supernatural guardians.

The most famous are the spectacular white marble temples at Mount Abu.

Sculptures mostly in wood has not survived in time.

The most famous "Gommateshvara Statue", a monolithic, 18m statue of Bahubali, situated on a hilltop in Shravanabelagola, in the Hassan district of Karnataka. Noted as the first of the Seven Wonders of India.

Built under Chalukya rule in Rajasthan, ~~between~~ The Dilwara temple complex consists of five ornately carved marble temples, each dedicated to a different Tirthankara. Some of the breathtaking features include a grand hall that is supported by 12 massive pillars and the pillars supporting, are carved to look like women, who are playing musical instruments.

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Hinduism:-

Hinduism is a richly visual tradition, illustrated by its paintings, sculpture, and distinctive rangoli patterns.

The carving of sacred images and figurines was an art-form. Architecture has 2 styles namely Nagara (North) and Dravida (South). The 11<sup>th</sup> century CE Brihadishvara Temple complex at Thanjavur, is an excellent example of South Indian temple features.

Hinduism is often called the oldest living religion in the world. The 11<sup>th</sup> century Lingaraj Temple is a fine example of the North Indian Nagara style of temple architecture, marked by its ~~and~~ curvilinear, beehive-shaped shikara.



## Gupta Architecture :-

The kingdom of Magadha is the modern Bihar, founded by Chandragupta.

The period of Gupta dynasty is considered as golden age of art.

Gupta rulers followed and promoted Hinduism. Most of the temples built in the Gupta era were ~~carved~~ carved with representation of Gods (mainly avatars of Vishnu and Lingams) and Goddesses.

Main style of temple architecture in Gupta Period is Nagara style. The entire temple on a stone platform with steps leading upto it. No boundary walls or gateways.

Northern Temples:- The Kailasanatha temple is one of the largest Indian rock-cut ancient Hindu temple located in the Ellora Caves, Maharashtra, India.

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The Kailash temple is the 16<sup>th</sup> cave and it is one of the 34 cave temples. It was built by Rashtrakuta King Krishna. The temple architecture shows Pallava and Chalukya style of architecture. This Lord Shiva temple is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Dasavatara temple in Uttar Pradesh is the first North Indian temple with a Shikara of 40 feet high.

The Vaishno Devi Temple at Jammu and Kashi-Vishwanath Temple at Varanasi are most famous temples of North.

The Golden Temple at Amritsar, Punjab is one of the oldest worship places for the Indian Sikh.

The temple is surrounded by a manmade lake with lots of fish in it.

Deccan Temples:- (10)

The Deccani style or the Vesara

style of architecture is a mixture of Nagara (North) and Dravida (South).

The style was started by Chalukyas

of Badami. Their greatest achievement in architecture is the Kailasanath

temple at Ellora. Temple is dedicated

to Lord Shiva, a gopuram, staircases

and a vimana rising to 30 metres,

importantly, all of this is carved out

of living rock. One portion of the

monolithic hill was carved patiently

to build the Kailasanath temple.

A tract of country between the rivers Tapti and Krishna, forms the Deccan,

\* Chennakesava temple - Somnathpur

\* Durga temple ~~Aihole~~ Belur, Karnataka

\* Stone chariot and Vittala temple at Hampi, Karnataka.



## Southern Temples.

Pallavas:-

The Dravidian style of temple architecture began with the Pallava rule.

It was a gradual evolution starting from the rock cut - cave temples to monolithic rathas.

Pancha rathas is an example of monolithic Indian rock cut architecture dating from the late 7<sup>th</sup> century at Mamallapuram, a UNESCO world heritage site. The ~~Kaishasana~~ <sup>Kaishasana</sup> temple in Kanchipuram, ~~built~~ <sup>built</sup> by Rajasimha; Rock cut temple in Mahendravadi by Mahendavarman are fine examples of the Pallava style temples.

Chola :-

The chola temples are built in the Dravidian style of temple architecture.

The Brihadiswara temple at Thanjavur, the ancient capital of the chola kings in 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D designed by the famous architect Soma Varma.

Deities were placed at the Garbhagriha and used of carved miniature images of Gods and goddesses. The Cholas followed the Pallava style of architecture.

Sanctum of the chola temples are both circular and square in size.

The temples were not only places of worship, lots of crafts were associated with it. The making of bronze images was the most distinctive.

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Pandya Period of architecture :-

Pandya architecture includes both rock-cut and structural temples.

The early rock-cut temples have monolithic vimanas. The structural ones are small stone temples and have all the features of bigger temples (ie) vimana, mandapa and sikhara.

Famous Meenakshi Temple in Madurai is a masterpiece of Pandyas.

More than 50 rock ~~cut~~ temples are excavated by Pandya ~~king~~ Kingdom.

More rockcut temples were found in Thiruparakundram, Karaikudi, Anamalai and Trichy.

Pandyas were popularly known as Sangam Valantha Pandiyargal.

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Vijayanagar and Nayaks :-

Vijayanagar :-

Local hard granite was preferred in Badami Chalukya style.

Vijayanagar in Sanskrit means city of victory.

Hampi, the city of ruins, is the most beautiful town in Karnataka. Krishnadeva Raya is the famous king and Indo Islamic architecture buildings like Queens bath and the Elephant stables were constructed during their rule.

Famous architectural works include Dashavatara (Ten avatars of Vishnu) and the Shivapurana murals (The tales of Shiva) at Virabhadra temple at Lepakshi.

Nayaks were Tamil rulers, who ruled with Madurai as their capital.

The Nayaks were former military governors of the Vijayanagar emperors, then established their own kingdoms.

Nayaks also renovated temples that had been sacked by the Delhi Sultans. Thanjavur Painting, a famous South Indian school of classical painting, also emerged under the Nayaks.

The Palace by King

Thirumalai Nayak of the Madurai Nayak dynasty, has 1. hundred pillared mandapas.

2. lofty gopurams

3. closed prakarams with huge pillars on either side.

In Srirangam Ranganath temple, Trichy, full sized figures of animals and riders on rearing horses has be sculpted.



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Islamic Period of Architecture :-

Imperial style :-

Imperial style gained prominence during Delhi sultanate, flourished during the reign of Qutub-ud-din Aibak, Alauddin Khilji and the Tughlaks.

Features :-

1. Large bulbous onion domes  
Sometimes surrounded by 4 smaller domes.

2. Use of white marble and red sand stone.

eg:- Qutub Minar is a 5 storeyed minar which height is 73 m. It is the second tallest minar in India. First ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> in Punjab.

The height of minar symbolises might and power of ruler.

Provincial Style :-

Mandu (Gujarat) is an example of this style. It was a complex mix of official and residential - cum - pleasure palace. The Pavilions were light and airy, so these buildings did not retain heat. Local stones and marble were used.

Fort of Chittor (Rajasthan) is the largest fort in Asia. Carving of bell and chain motifs and carved panels depicting trees were used for Tombs, mosques and Dargahs.

An amazing range of stones were used

1. quartzite
2. Sandstone
3. buff
4. marble.

From 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks were used.

Mughal Style :-

It is the Indo-Islamic architectural style in North and Central India under the Mughal rulers.

The main features are

1. Bulbous domes
2. large halls and
3. delicate ornamentation.

The Taj Mahal at Agra, India is the most famous example of Mughal architecture. King Shah Jahan built it in remembrance of his wife Mumtaz, took more than 15 yrs to build.

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## UNIT - III

### Sculptures :-

#### The Mauryas :-

Founded by chandra gupta Maurya, Emperor Ashoka erected religious pillars throughout India. The Lion Capital of Ashoka from Sarnath is the national emblem of India.

The animal carvings on the pillars of Ashoka is the finest work.

These pillars were carved in 2 types of stone.

Some were from Mathura and red and white sandstone, the black spotted sandstone from Chunar near Varanasi.

These pillars are mainly erected in the Gangetic plains. The inscriptions on the pillar were that of Ashoka on Dharma or righteousness.

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Terra cottas :-

Popular terracotta objects of various sizes have been found at Mauryan sites. They are found more commonly from Patraliputra to Taxila.

Terracottas from Taxila consists of deity figures, toys, dice, ornaments and beads.

Among the ornaments were round medallions. Many animal figures are probably toys for children.

Ringstones :-

The ringstone is a distinct type of miniature sculpture of the Mauryan Empire. They are shaped like a doughnut. They are in stone with a hole in the centre. When complete they are about 2.5 to 4 inches across.

The designs vary, but finely carved, despite their small size.

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Mauryan art is notable for brighter mirror like Polish and huge variety of creations.

Four back to back Lions, a walking bull, a galloping horse are some of the examples of Mauryan art of carving.

The popular art includes the Yakshas and Yakshinis, which are the caretakers of the national treasures.

The Kushans :-

The statue of Kushan Emperor Kanishka I in long coat and boots statue is found in Mathura museum.

He reformed the currency system and issued new variety of coins. The martial character of the king is well depicted in the coins.

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Lord Shiva is seen in his symbolic lingam as well as human form during the Kushanas period.

The Ardhanarishvara was shaped during Kushana period. Among the mother Goddess deities, Mahishasuramardini (strangling the buffalo demon) was generally shown with her powerful 4 arms.

~~Here~~ The Kushanas were instrumental in spreading Buddhism in Central Asia and China and in developing Mahayana Buddhism and the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art.

Chalukyas :-

with Badami as the capital and Kannada and Sanskrit languages, the central part of India was ruled by the Chalukyas.

The vesara style of temple building was done. In Ellora and Ajanta Caves, most of the paintings and sculptures were finished during Chalukya period.

The Hoysalas:-

It is distinctively Dravidian, but owing to its features, Hoysala architecture qualifies as an independent style.

One of the common features of the Hoysala temples is that the pillars of these temples carry images of sculpture of a woman, displaying stylised feminine features.



Vijayanagara Paintings:-

Paintings at Tirupara Kunram near Trichy done in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In Hampi, its capital, the Virupaksha temple, Karnataka has paintings on the ceiling of its mandapa from Ramayana and Mahabharata.

In Depakshi (Andhra Pradesh) Paintings on the walls of Shiva temple.

Murals of North and South India:-

Murals are large works executed on the walls of solid structures as in Ajanta caves and Kailasanatha temple.

In Ajanta caves, the ceilings, walls are all covered with figures, brought to life by artists with

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Strong and contrasting colours.

The technique is similar to European Fresco technique. The primary difference is that the layer of plaster was dry when it was painted. The paintings are examples of Buddhist art and architecture, presenting the teachings of Buddha.

The walls of Ajanta caves are decorated with the splendour of the royal courts, the romance, singing and dancing.

The faces of the figures are with large eyes and narrow waists.

The largest mural painting exists in Kerala. "Gajendramoksham", it is in the palace walls of Krishnapuram in Alappuzha.

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The Chalukyan rulers of South India also used it, as a medium in expressing their creativity in the murals of Badami.

Miniatures :-

Miniature paintings are executed on a very small scale for books on paper or cloth.

The Palas of Bengal were the pioneers of miniature painting in India.

Mughal painting :-

Mughal painting is a particular style of South Asian, which emerged from Persian miniature painting.

Rajput painting :-

Also known as Rajasthani painting, evolved and flourished in the royal courts of Rajputana in northern India.

Rajput paintings depict a number of themes, events of epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, Krishna's life, beautiful landscapes and humans.

The Rajasthani miniature artists use paper, ivory panels, wooden tablets, leather, marble, cloth and walls for their paintings.

Indian artists employed multiple perspectives, unlike their European counterparts in their paintings. The colours are made from minerals and vegetables, precious stones, as well as pure silver and gold.

Pahari paintings :-

It is an Indian painting done in miniature forms. It started in Himalayan hill kingdoms. (Pahar means mountain in Hindi) It is the art of Rajasthan. The term "Rajput painting" has been used for this painting.

Modern Indian Paintings :-

The modern Indian paintings started in Calcutta in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Painters show the western styles. Mostly Indian themes and images are painted. Many of the painters gain international recognition.

Raja Ravi Varma is known as the father of Indian modern art. He painted scenes from Mahabharata and Ramayana.

UNIT - IV

Western art and architecture.

Egyptian :-

Egyptian art emphasized 3 basic elements

- 1) engraving
- 2) sculpture &
- 3) painting.

Engravings lined the inside of tombs are the most common and well known form of Ancient Egyptian art.

Best example of Egyptian architecture are the pyramids. Besides

there were

- 1) Palaces
- 2) tombs
- 3) Fortresses.

Due to location, most ancient buildings were built of mud brick and

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limestone, readily available materials, by slaves, because there was very little wood available.

The temples had large statues of their gods as well as many paintings on the walls. The first and largest pyramid at Giza, which stands today at 455 feet tall is known as the Great Pyramid. And it is one of the world's wonders built by Pharaoh Khufu.

Greek :-

The art reflects the society that creates them. In Greek architecture the most important building was the temple. The walled rooms in the centre of the temple held sculptures of gods and goddesses and lavish gifts to

these deities.

Greek art is mainly 5 forms

- 1. architecture
- 2. Sculpture
- 3. Painting
- 4. Pottery and
- 5. Jewelry making.

The principal material of Greek architecture were wood, unbaked brick, & terracotta (baked clay), ~~etc~~

Roman :-

Roman art includes

- 1. architecture
- 2. painting
- 3. Sculpture
- 4. mosaic work



5. luxury objects in metal work
6. gem engraving
7. Ivory carvings and glass.

Roman coins were important. The Roman buildings were large and ornate. The arches were either single or triple, and decorated with sculptured pictures. The Romans sculpted statues of gods, heroes and real people. They also painted and made a lot of pottery for the households, for cooking and cleaning.

\* Art was carved on the walls of stone buildings depicting battles and famous Romans

\* The Romans wanted their art and architecture to be useful

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They planned their cities and built bridges, aqueducts, public baths, and market places, Apartment houses, and harbours.

Roman art included fine art painting (murals, portraits and vase-painting)

The exterior arches in WHITE HOUSE (USA) includes Roman architecture.

The Roman Colosseum - was used for famous battles, executions and dramas. It is elliptic in shape, in order to hold more spectators.

The Colosseum is broken due to the severe damage caused by the earthquake in 1349 causing the outer south side to collapse.

Much of the tumbled stone was reused to build palaces, churches, hospitals and other buildings elsewhere in Rome.

The Colosseum is important because, it is the grandest amphitheater from ancient time. The official opening of the amphitheater was followed by 100 days of celebration.

### Early Christian :-

Otherwise known as Paleo Christian, the art provides an important record of some aspects of the development of Christian subject matter.

Themes of Death and Resurrection is the striking aspect of Christian art.

Christianity has had a dramatic effect on artists, one's faith might compel them to paint with more passion.

The top art works include

1. Moses Striking the Rock
2. Noah praying in the Ark.

Early Christian art and architecture adapted Roman artistic motifs and they were peacock, & Good Shepherd. Early Christians also developed symbols such as the fish.

Images of Jesus and narrative scenes from the life of Christ are the most common art works.

Byzantine :- (Eastern Roman Empire)

4<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century CE.

\* Hagia Sophia, the most famous and most spectacular example of Byzantine architecture, was built to replace an church, destroyed by fire.

\* It is called "Romanesque" meaning descended from Roman.

\* Made of stone roofs, the walls had to be very thick to hold up the roofs and there couldn't be many windows, so Romanesque buildings were often very heavy and dark inside.

\* The Byzantine Empire or Eastern Roman Empire, its capital was Constantinople, which <sup>today</sup> ~~which~~ is in Turkey, now called Istanbul.

Gothic :-

Gothic art was a style of Medieval art that developed in Northern France out of Romanesque art in the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

\* Architecture includes large stained glass windows, and ornate decoration.

\* Gothic cathedrals like Notre Dame were tall and spacious, with light permeating through massive stained glass windows.

\* Salisbury Cathedral is famous for the beauty of its lancet Gothic architecture. The long opening with a pointed arch is known ~~as~~ in England as the lancet.

\* ~~Large~~ churches were built in the form of cross.

Unit V.

## The Aesthetic Function of art :-

Aesthetics is important because it helps us understand and judge the various qualities.

Definition: Aesthetic is being interested in how something looks and feels. eg: Artist.

Aesthetics is the branch of Philosophy concerned with the nature and appreciation of art, beauty and good taste. It emerged during the 18th century in Europe and developed in England.

Origin: The word "aesthetics" is derived from Greek "aisthetikos" meaning 'of sense perception'.

In photography, it means that an image appeals to the eye. There is something about its subject, composition, colour. It makes you want to sit and observe it.

\* Stylish, appealing are other words for aesthetic.

\* Aesthetic - British English  
esthetics - American English.

\* Beauty is something we perceive and respond to.

\* It may be a sunset or taking in the view from a mountain-top.



\* Aesthetic means the pleasant, positive appearance of a person or thing.

Purpose of Aesthetics :-

People want to look and feel better longer. And a lot of literature exists to support that the way a person looks really affects how they feel. So the purpose of aesthetics is to enhance an individual's natural beauty.

## ART, ARTIST AND SOCIETY

Artists :- Artists play one of the most important roles in our society. They can reshape our world into a better place, where once again freedom of thought and real communication can be brought back through art and reality.

Artist's contribution to society :-

\* Artists make a visual record of the people, places and events of their time and place.

\* Artists help us to see the world in new or innovative ways.

\* Artists make functional objects and structures more pleasurable.

~~\* Artists help us to see the world in new and~~ give form to material ideas and feelings.

TWO WAYS WE VALUE ART :-

1. Monetarily (what people are willing to pay for the art piece)
2. Intrinsically (how it moves, how it connects to you)

## Purpose of Art in Public places :-

To address social and political issues, teaching people to appreciate art, would enhance the social life of the nation.

Different forms of art :- dancing, music, literature, acting and drawing/painting.

## Benefits of art :-

1. Helps children be better students and improve quality of life for seniors.
2. It relieves stress, encourages creative thinking
3. Boosts self-esteem.
4. It can make any individual, a better and happier person.

Elements of Art :-

1. Line
2. Shape
3. Space
4. Value
5. Form
6. Texture  
and
7. Colour.

\* children engaged in art learns eye-hand co-ordination, ~~and~~ creativity and visual learning also.

A Reasons why art is important for our Society ?

1. It is a natural behaviour - Just like language art is a natural behaviour of expressing oneself.

children try to draw something creative that reflects their thought process.

## 2. Media for communication:-

There are different types of language. You might not understand a particular language. But art is a universal form of communication.

Everyone can understand it. With art, you can share your ideas and thoughts with other people.

## 3. It talks about culture and

### Society:-

When you look at the painting made in caves and rocks by the ancient people, it gives us an idea about their culture. It reflects a society's beliefs, cultural values etc.

4. Attracts tourism :-

People visit many places because of art. It is possible to develop a strong sense of community belonging with the help of art. It can bridge the gap between different cultures.

# Indian Aesthetics, beauty and Rasas

The 8 Rasas . colour emotion

1. Baya - Black - emotion of fear
2. Hasya - white - laughter
3. Veera - orange - heroism
4. Rudra - red - anger
5. Adbhuta - yellow - wonder
6. Shringai - green - love
7. Bibhitsa - blue - disgust
8. Karuna - grey - ~~Sadness~~ Compassion.

Alankara : in Indian classical music means "ornament, decoration."

Indian aesthetics is a unique philosophical and spiritual point of view on art, architecture and literature.

The term 'rasa' may not find a good equivalent in English, but in its basic sense means "aesthetic relish".

The 8 rasas can be thought of as eight different kinds of aesthetic experiences.

The "rasa" literally means "juice, essence or taste".

It connotes a concept in Indian arts about the aesthetic flavour of any visual, literary or musical work that evokes an emotion or feeling in the



reader or audience but cannot be described.

Expressing Rasa in classical Indian dance form is referred to as "Rasa abhinaya".

The expressions used in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Manipuri, Katakali are extremely rich in variations of the emotions.

The 3 theories of aesthetics are

- i) imitationalism
- ii) formalism &
- iii) Emotionalism.

The Fundamental difference between art and beauty is that "art" is about who has produced it, whereas "beauty" depends on who's looking.

"Beauty" alone is not art, but art can be made of, about or for beautiful things.