

## THE ESSENCE OF THE TERMS "CULTURE AND ART"

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This article explores the profound role of culture and art in the life of society. Culture is defined as the aggregate of material and spiritual values created throughout the historical development of humanity, while art is presented as a means of satisfying aesthetic needs and expressing beauty. The article emphasizes that culture and art form the norms and values that regulate social behavior, ensure social stability, and contribute to the sustainability of economic and political systems. Furthermore, it discusses the current issues within the field and stresses the necessity of systematic approaches for their resolution.

**Keywords**

culture, art, social development, aesthetic taste, means of communication, performing arts, cultural professionals, political stability, qualified personnel, urban lifestyle.

**Introduction**

Culture is the totality of material and spiritual values created by humanity over the course of historical development. It encompasses social phenomena such as lifestyles, customs, traditions, moral norms, knowledge, and art. From an anthropological perspective, culture reflects human relationships with nature and society and their mutual influence. The term "culture" derives from the Latin word *colere*, meaning "to cultivate" or "to develop." In Arabic, the word *madaniy* refers to an "urban" or "civilized" person, which highlights the close connection between culture and human settlements, social life, and development.

Prominent medieval scholars such as Avicenna and Al-Beruni viewed urban life as the most advanced form of social organization. Al-Farabi, for example, argued that "every person strives for the highest form of perfection by nature," and that such perfection can only be achieved within an urban community. He stated

that “a cultural society and cultural city (or nation) is one in which every individual is free in their occupation, equal in status, and where people live in true freedom.”

Accordingly, culture shapes the norms and values that govern human behavior, which in turn regulate interpersonal relationships and uphold societal stability. Culture preserves and transmits knowledge, experience, and values across generations, ensuring the continuity of historical and cultural heritage. Through shared values and traditions, culture unifies individuals and strengthens social cohesion and solidarity.

### **Art as a Component of Culture**

Art, an inseparable component of culture, serves to satisfy human aesthetic needs and express beauty. It manifests in various forms, including music, literature, painting, sculpture, theater, and cinema. Through art, individuals express their inner world, emotions, and worldview, sharing them with others. Art shapes and enhances a society’s aesthetic values and reflects its socio-political and cultural realities.

Throughout history, the role and significance of art have been widely debated. Art embodies both objective and subjective elements – realistic and imaginative. Its social and aesthetic functions are diverse: it serves as a source of aesthetic pleasure, instills an emotional connection to reality, acts as a tool for observation and understanding, facilitates the transformation of life towards human ideals, and plays an educational role. Art inspires admiration for beauty and aversion to ugliness, creates spiritual connections among people, and fosters artistic taste and worldview.

Art is intrinsically connected to other facets of spiritual life such as science, ideology, and ethics. Its aim is to artistically comprehend the world and meet people's aesthetic needs through the creation of spiritually enriching works. Artistic works focus on individuals, their social interactions, and their lives within specific historical contexts. Thus, the educational value of art lies in its emotional and imaginative appeal, which deeply resonates with audiences.

### **State Perspective and Societal Role**

In 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized during a meeting with cultural and art sector leaders:

“We must never forget one truth: if culture and art do not develop in our country, society will not progress. The level of our people’s development is judged primarily by our national culture. In this regard, culture is the face of our people and our society. If we are to create a new image of Uzbekistan, we must begin with the development of national culture.”

### **So what role do culture and art play in society?**

Culture and society are mutually formative and developmental forces. While a society's economic, political, and social structure shapes its culture, culture in turn influences societal development. Culture establishes moral norms and values that regulate behavior, social relations, and order. It also shapes economic activity and labor culture, increasing productivity and driving economic growth. Culturally rooted respect for tradition and heritage supports political stability.

### **Challenges in the Cultural Sector**

Unfortunately, many today associate culture and art exclusively with performers, dancers, or actors, which narrows the broader understanding of these concepts. In reality, culture and art are present in daily life, thought processes, moral standards, and aesthetic sensibilities. Limiting them to the performing arts is a misguided approach.

### **Why do such narrow perceptions persist?**

Despite efforts to develop the cultural and artistic sectors in the post-independence era, outdated management practices and the absence of comprehensive strategies hinder the effective operation of cultural institutions and the delivery of services. This has limited public perception and engagement with culture and art.

There is also a lack of attention to the demand for highly qualified personnel in these fields. Inadequate systems for training, retraining, and professional development limit the effective implementation of unified state policies and the fulfillment of strategic priorities in the cultural domain.

In everyday life, culture is often associated with urban living or visiting theaters, cinemas, and libraries, which restricts the understanding of its comprehensive nature.

### **Proposed Solutions**

To change these perceptions, several measures must be taken:

#### **Reforming the Education System:**

Assess and address the demand for qualified professionals in cultural and art institutions. Create an effective system for their training, retraining, and upskilling.

#### **Developing Cultural Institutions:**

Improve the functioning of theaters, museums, cultural centers, and leisure parks. Provide necessary equipment and musical instruments to ensure favorable conditions for creative activity.

#### **Raising Cultural Awareness:**

Encourage youth participation in artistic events, performances, and exhibitions. Expose them to the finest examples of national and world culture to enhance their moral, aesthetic, and cultural standards.

If these measures are implemented, society's view of cultural professionals will shift positively. They will be seen as vital contributors to national development, their work will be appreciated and respected, and they will become role models for younger generations.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, culture and art form the spiritual foundation of society, reflecting the sum of material and spiritual values created throughout human history. They shape behavior, social interaction, and societal order, and contribute to economic and political stability. Today, Uzbekistan is paying special attention to the modernization of these sectors, supporting artists, and promoting national and universal values among the youth through comprehensive reforms.

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