

Patrick Dorelas
Dr. Stephen Maret
PSY: 101 Gen-Psych
11/06/19

This article is about linking creativity to mental illness/depression. The article presents a number of tables and surveys to back up and support the link between creativity and depression. It then asks if religion helps the artists suffering or is it detrimental to their emotional state. The article states many artists with mental illness. Such as Ludwig Beethoven, Vincent Van Go, and Shelley. They all had depression or a form of mental illness. The article then goes into the question of are mentally ill people creative or are creative people predisposed to mental illness. As a result of performing a survey on this question, they came to a conclusion that the link between mental illness and creativity is very complex. The article then compares mental illness to the work of the artist suffering. In table 4 the artist are recorded saying that it makes them more productive and helps them focus more on their artwork. They also said it puts more passion and emotion into their work. The article also

states that religion helps some artists but makes the emotional state of some artist worse. Better because table 5 states that the artist gets church support and it gives them a sense of purpose. Worse because some artist were recorded saying that they feel misunderstood and alienated with no one to relate too.

I think the author was trying to bring more awareness to the fact that some people need professional help. although religious and spiritual help is effective it's still not enough for some people. The author proved his point well with the surveys performed for this article. I think the author's ideology is justified. I say that because most artists are right brain dominant. And the right side of our brain is creative and emotional. So I could see artists being at a higher risk of having mental illness or depression. The authors thinking can be questioned because it's backed by a lot of survey evidence and references that's not too solid.

The problem I had with this article is that the surveys are primarily focused on Caucasians from the ages of 50-60. It's not logical to perform surveys on one group

of people if we're discussing the mental state of artists.

There should be a number from each racial and age

group to really get a solid answer to your theory. But

overall I do agree with the idea that creativity is linked

to depression because I think your creativity depends

on your mental state.

<https://drive.google.com/a/nyack.edu/file/d/1iPsWFk136Z3iMivD26BGqeMrtaUj7O6H/view?usp=drivesdk>