

## On The Contributions of Competitive Exhibitions to Art Education

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**Abstract:** Continuing art activities in art try to undertake a different mission. It is very valuable and important for individuals who receive Art Education to be able to say I am in art activities. Because of the spread of art and the understanding that it is a value on its own, the exhibitions provide a lot of benefits to the field in terms of accepting that it is an original method of expression. The importance of those who are enthusiastic to see many good works together, the pride and determination have given to them if they have been exhibited, raising the standards of aesthetic perception with the psychology of competition and increasing their interest in the field are important situations.

In the field of deep-rooted competitive exhibitions, the links of the chain can be seen year by year and a social memory of art can be created. The fact that it is not possible to collect artistically qualified works that have achieved certain standards from a historical perspective is important. In addition, if the historical development and perspective of social memory from an artistic point of view are to be mentioned, it will be better understood why similar activities are important.

**Keywords:** Exhibition, Art, Art Education, Achievement

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### Introduction

Today's people make extensive use of the visual blessings offered by the technology that has developed over time and witness the artistic activities taking place around them. Among these art activities, competitive exhibitions are undoubtedly one of the simplest and most practical solutions for educating people's visual worlds, as they can reach large masses.

The contributions of state and private institutions that organized art organizations to art and culture have always been considered important for the widespread education of the field of art. As an art practice, these practices

have had a great impact on the progress, artistic and cultural development of individuals and societies.

### **Competitive Exhibition Culture**

Throughout history, art has existed wherever there have been people. Every society that has lived on earth has had its own unique art. Wherever there is a human community, art has manifested itself as an effect of material life, intuition, subconsciousness, instinctuality, which has become a necessity of life (Artut, 2009:13).

Art is like a treasure left over from the past and waiting to be transferred to the future for human beings, it is an accumulation kneaded from the experiences of societies in the past. These accumulations are of great importance in ensuring interaction between generations. This transfer process is realized through different artistic presentation methods between art producers and consumers. Artistic exhibitions, which are the activities that most clearly demonstrate the communication and educational functions of art, are activities that play an important role in raising individuals who are aware of themselves, life and their environment, and who can observe their surroundings from different perspectives. Exhibitions also enable the development of individuals who have developed the ability to think abstractly, who can express these thoughts in their own individual language in accordance with the requirements of contemporary life, and who can combine their thoughts with their own interiority.

"... art exhibitions have the duty of protecting cultural values, enabling the development of these values, responding to people's artistic expectations, and bringing artistic value to society. They also have artistic, cultural, educational and scientific purposes. These activities ensure that the student is actively involved in the art programs in plastic arts education, as well as making the society love art by making it popular with the works of art exhibited and developing the art consciousness of the society by making use of the power of art to influence people." (Erbay, 2001: 29).

Throughout history, many regimes have resorted to a wide variety of tools to establish and strengthen their power. One of these tools has been art. The use of art as a tool for the establishment of ideologies started in the last century. This policy is based on three main ideas: creating national art, ensuring that national art is modern, and reorienting fine arts education in the creation of national contemporary art. These studies in the field of Plastic Arts originated from social dynamics and were programmed by intellectuals in line with the policies of the state (Yasa Yaman, 1994:161).

In the following years, with the increase in art galleries due to liberal economic openings and socio-political approaches, the increase in art competitions, in which the private sector was more predominant, and the state was more indifferent, was an important sign of development and change. Art competitions, which carry very important functions in terms of providing financial support to artists and revealing plastic sensibilities prone to creativity, have continued to increase to the present day.

### Competitive Exhibitions in the Context of Contribution to Art Education

The economic and social development of a country is proportional to its cultural and artistic initiatives. A country striving for economic development will not be able to accomplish this important task without nationwide cultural planning.

The ability of young people, who receive their first knowledge of art education in schools at the formal education level, to mature and develop concepts that are not based on a certain foundation in their minds depends on the prevalence of cultural and artistic opportunities where they can find concrete equivalents to these concepts in the environments where they live. This can only be realized by providing equal services in the fields of culture and art to the majority of the people throughout the country, by making them benefit from these services, and by providing opportunities for artistic creation. In addition to state institutions, the contributions of private organizations to arts and culture are important in terms of non-formal education in this field.

In developing countries and some developed countries, as in other areas, the state's duties of determining options in art and culture and creating the necessary conditions for as wide a segment of the population as possible to share in art and culture are shared by semi-official and private organizations. The main objective here is to enable large segments of society to benefit from art's comprehensiveness, informative and pleasure-creating function, and thus to expand the service possibilities of private organizations, regardless of the field they are oriented towards (Özsezgin, 1997:15).

Exhibitions are undoubtedly one of the simplest and most practical solutions for educating people's worlds through plastic arts, as they can bring artworks to large masses in this development process.

Competitive exhibitions offer young art students the opportunity and space to show their presence. In addition, it is possible to look at the perception styles, expression preferences, and popular techniques of a period through the panorama offered by exhibitions. In this respect alone, these competitive exhibitions are important.

Aydın Ayan said in an interview: *"Competitions and exhibitions contribute to art in the following way. You write stories, poems, or novels. You have ten novels. Publishers and magazines don't publish them. You don't have that opportunity; you can't reach people. You are by yourself. One of the most important functions of art is communication. Tolstoy was asked what art is. He couldn't answer. He sat down and wrote a book on what art is and then said that the most important function of art is communication. Yes, we don't make art just for ourselves. It is a necessity of ours, we cannot do without art without production. But the pleasure of sharing it and communicating with others through art is different. The satisfaction and pleasure it gives to people are different."*(Öztürk, 2014).

Misman also commented on the contribution of activities to art education: *"... students have the opportunity to work at school, they have a workshop, they have materials. With the posters of the institution, the awards given,*

*and the encouragement of their teachers, students are eager to enter such a competition. I remember there would be an effort on the part of the students just to enter the art competition. In the past, students entered competitions, and some of them were successful. Their teachers were proud that their students entered the exhibition. Competitions are an important thing. Of course, there are some students who continue this in the future. These cannot be denied. In fact, they are valuable activities for both students and teachers."* (Öztürk,2014).

As can be understood, the remarkable development of art depends on activities, exhibitions, competitions, catalogs and books, and awards. When there is no expected effort in terms of exhibition opportunities, meeting with society, and being appreciated and attracted by society, there can be no development in this field. In art education, the importance of these processes for students and educators becomes more prominent.

## Conclusion

The impact of competitive exhibitions on young artist candidates is undeniable. In this sense, art competitions today are similarly recognized as platforms that play an important role in the emergence of young talents and the production of new works for the art world. Although art competitions organized by both state and private institutions do not show their former social effectiveness, they are seen as an important representation area for artists, academics, amateurs and art lovers, especially young artist candidates. In this respect, it can be said that it is important for students who are active in similar exhibitions to continue their artwork production activities in their post-school lives and to carry this into their careers. Similar indirect effects can be seen in the reflection of competitive exhibition activities on human life. It is a fact that awards and achievements are seen as a reason for preference in the selection of a person while moving up the career ladder. In addition, these competitive exhibition events are important areas where young candidates who will fill the seats in the academies in the future can see the stirrings of talent beforehand.

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