

Between Technology and Art: Redefining Musical Expression in Contemporary Society

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Abstract

Understanding music within the broader framework of the concept of art and culture in the contemporary world is marked by postmodernist concepts that shaped the second half of the 20th century and continue to play a crucial role in shaping contemporary thinking about art. These concepts lay the foundations for understanding modern artworks and practices, particularly in the context of globalization, digitalization, and cultural diversity and have opened a space to redefine many artistic fields, elevate experimentation to a new level, and introduce advanced techniques and technologies into the core of creating and thinking about music and art in general.

Based on the observations of scholars such as Daniel Levitin and Jonathan Sterne, this paper investigates the relationship between society, technology and content, in the context of modern musical expression. It will question the human desire for perfect digital sharpness, clarity, and precision, despite the persistence of cultural memory that associates sound with various forms of imperfection or saturation (as evidenced by modern techniques that often replicate the saturation of analog equipment during music mixing, which was once standard); a thesis on potential involution of art will be presented; and possible guidelines will be offered for thinking about creative processes leading to the creation of a work that can be considered artistic. Furthermore, this paper examines the shifting boundary between art and applied art within contemporary conditions, marked by growing demands for functional, commercial, and socially engaged forms of artistic production.

Keywords

Music, society, postmodern concepts, culture.