

art may constitute 'knowing the world' by elucidating the outlook of a society at that point in time by operation of the ways of knowing. This is supported by painter Paul Klee who said, "Art does not reproduce what we see; rather, it makes us see."⁶

A famous war poem by Wilfred Owen I studied under the discipline of literature was "*Dulce Et Decorum Est*". It criticized the futility of war by accentuating the ideology instilled into people, *Dulce Et Decorum Est Pro patria mori* - it is sweet and memorable to die for your country.⁷ This elucidated the outlook of society during that period, allowing us to attain knowledge of society. However, it is debatable if art rests on a set of assumptions. The nature of art is perceptive and differs from individual to individual. There is a lack of criteria for something with endless possibilities. In that case, the realm of truth in art is perceptive in nature. Therefore, there is no universal assumption in what dictates art and what is beautiful. It is abstract to argue that art could reflect the outlook of a society.

Assuming art indeed reflected the outlook of society; it may assume that a certain type of societal outlook is being reflected. Art can be interpreted in different manners and different people may interpret it very differently. Hence, the societal outlook the artist was intending to present could turn out vastly different. Furthermore, to reflect the outlook of society, it may advocate that art rests on the assumption that art is representative of a society. Art may not actually represent society but rather specific individuals who make up society.

Nevertheless, it is possible to test these assumptions by conducting compulsory surveys or interviewing everyone in the country to test these. Books and dairies could also be

⁶ Poynor, R. (2010, January 12). *Where Is Art Now?* Retrieved May 5, 2013, from The Design Observer Group: <http://observatory.designobserver.com/entry.html?entry=22938>

⁷ Roberts, D. (1998). *The War Poetry Website*. Retrieved May 15, 2013, from Dulce et Decorum Est: <http://www.warpoetry.co.uk/owen1.html>