**Christianity and Its Contribution to Arts**

Name

Institution

Course

Professor

Date

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All major religions have used artistic traditions to demonstrate their tenets. For Christianity, sacred art is used as a way to highlight, supplement, and portray their principles (*Art in Society | Boundless Art History*) .Christian art uses themes that the intended observer is familiar with. Buddhist art is based on dharma spread across countries. Islamic art forbids the use of representational images in religious art. Instead, Islamic art is comprised of decorative components like calligraphy that incorporate geometrical patterns that highlight the order and nature of the religion. Religion is a principal theme in art. The present analysis focuses on the contribution of Christianity to art, music, and literature. Throughout history, Christians have used art as a way to illustrate their principles and narratives. Christian art alludes to themes like the Virgin Mary, baby Jesus, the crucifix, the three persons of the Trinity, and Saints.

The Medieval period produced art that was primarily influenced by religion and the Church. According to Yu (2016), people in the Middle Ages, art across Europe depicted religion, primarily Catholic subjects and themes. Art was all about God. According to Henderson, art has been considered inseparable from the Christian perspective on life. The clergy has been supportive of the relationship between art and worship. The Church, as Henderson demonstrates, is connected to timeless pieces, including *The Last Supper* by DaVinci, *La Pieta* by Michelangelo, among others. Art has always been considered a way to demonstrate the beauty of God. The basilica of Saint-Denis in Paris is considered a way that art gave religion shape and substance (Henderson). Christianity has influenced the creation of art that compliments and accompanies worship (Henderson). Art is considered as having the capacity to communicate beyond what humans can comprehend, suggesting its importance in Christianity. According to Hertzenberg (2019), visual art has been used to depict Christian figures and used Christianity as a form of inspiration.

According to Parrott (2009), Christianity uses music as a principal component of worship, celebration, and thanksgiving. Worshippers use song as a way to demonstrate how they feel towards God. In Christianity, some common forms of music include hymns, songs, instrumentals, choral songs, and psalms. Christians write music to express their beliefs in their faith. Some common themes used in Christian music include penitence, worship, celebration, and praise (Parrott, 2009). The Bible continually references music. Psalms are considered a form of music to praise God (Parrott, 2009). Throughout Christianity, music has been used for worship. Levite leaders in Syrian monasteries used Psalms as a form of verse and response (Parrott, 2009). Hymns were written to adapt melodies characteristic of early chants. The Catholic Church has used the Canticle, where the Bible was sung during worship, a practice used in Roman Catholicism today (Parrott, 2009). Music sections were embedded during mass, and liturgical music was developed (Parrott, 2009).Sacred composers consulted the Bible as a way to include a heavenly component to the Church (Yu, 2016). Initially, sacred music was intended as a way to pay homage to God (Yu, 2016). Composers used melodies from songs and included religious lyrics to create anthems and hymns for the Catholic and Protestant churches (Parrott, 2009). During the 19th and 20th centuries, religious music changed according to the needs of congregations. The Church translated hymns or simplified them (Parrott, 2009). Christianity and its tenets are preserved in one of the most famous pieces of literature, the Bible. Considering the role of Christianity in the Bible, Hertzenberg (2019) argues that Christianity has extensive influence in literature. Christianity has been used as a theme in books, including famous ones like *Divine Comedy* (Hertzenberg, 2019). Despite the popularity of Christian beliefs and tenets in art forms, other religions have had little to no representation. According to Rahim (2018), the Qur’an prohibited idol worship, resulting into a scriptural as opposed to figurative representation of Islam. Muslims have imagined God using calligraphy as opposed to icons. Further, Jewish art was not popularized because of the religion’s fear of art and its idolatrous connections, especially following interpretations of the Second Commandment (Rahim, 2018). Buddhist art follows the spread of dharma.

Throughout history, Christianity has used art as a way to reconcile their faith with human understanding. The Church has been intricately connected to art. During the Middle Ages, art was exclusively religious. Through music, literature, and visual art, artists demonstrated social perspectives and influenced people's views of Christianity. Christianity has been connected to art since its inception. From the ancient psalms to today's recording studios, Christians have used art to illustrate their beliefs. Art has been used as a medium to voice indescribable aspects of God. Art has allowed Christians to experience and understand God. Through icons, music, and literature, Christians can see Jesus and saints intimately, allowing them to concentrate on devotion and prayer. Moreover, art enabled Christians to exemplify the lives they saw on divine figures encountered through art. Throughout history, Christians have created art to move people and communicate the greatness of the divine.

References

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