

Goodness

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Revelation 21:1-8

In the moral world...a man may clothe in new forms, and for this employ his imagination freely, but he must invent nothing. He may not, for any purpose, turn its laws upside down. He must not meddle with the relations of live souls. The laws of the spirit of man must hold, alike in this world and in any world he may invent. It were no offense to suppose a world in which everything repelled instead of attracted the things around it; it would be wicked to write a tale representing a man it called good as always doing bad things, or a man it called bad as always doing good things: the notion itself is absolutely lawless. In physical things a man may invent; in moral things he must obey — and take their laws with him into his invented world as well. -George MacDonald "The Fantastic Imagination" (In The Gifts of the Child Christ and Other Stories xxiii)

What makes a work of art "good" in a moral sense?

How do you balance immoral acts in a work of art with its ultimate morality?

Goodness can show us the beauty of the world God has given us.

The Passionate Shepherd to His Love
Christopher Marlowe

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That Valleys, groves, hills, and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the Rocks,
Seeing the Shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow Rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing Madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of Roses
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of Myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool

Which from our pretty Lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and Ivy buds,
With Coral clasps and Amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me, and be my love.

The Shepherds' Swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my love.

Goodness can show us how this world falls short of perfection

The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd

Sir Walter Raleigh

If all the world and love were young,
And truth in every Shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me move,
To live with thee, and be thy love.

Time drives the flocks from field to fold,
When Rivers rage and Rocks grow cold,
And *Philomel* becometh dumb,
The rest complains of cares to come.

The flowers do fade, and wanton fields,
To wayward winter reckoning yields,
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.

Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy beds of Roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten:
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.

Thy belt of straw and Ivy buds,
The Coral clasps and amber studs,
All these in me no means can move
To come to thee and be thy love.

But could youth last, and love still breed,
Had joys no date, nor age no need,
Then these delights my mind might move
To live with thee, and be thy love.

Goodness can warn us of the dangers of doing evil
Shakespeare's tragedies

Michelangelo's "Prisoners"

Goodness can create a longing for the world to come in us

Van Gogh's Starry Night
Far Away So Close

Other ways goodness can work?
Examples?

What disqualifies a work of art from being Good?

Immorality overwhelms good message (John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester's poetry)

Exults in evil (worst sort of horror movie)

No redemptive message (Sin City)

Crosses personal lines (pornographic content, alcohol abuse, harm to children - City of Bones

Michael Connelly)

Artistic intent

"...paintings give a philosophy of the world and of life. They are more than decorations or simply pleasant to look at. They have a message, and, what is vital to notice, a message realized by artistic means. The picture gets across what it wants to say, not just through its title, but by its own built-in qualities of artistry and method." -H. R. Rookmaaker Modern Art and the Death of a Culture, 28

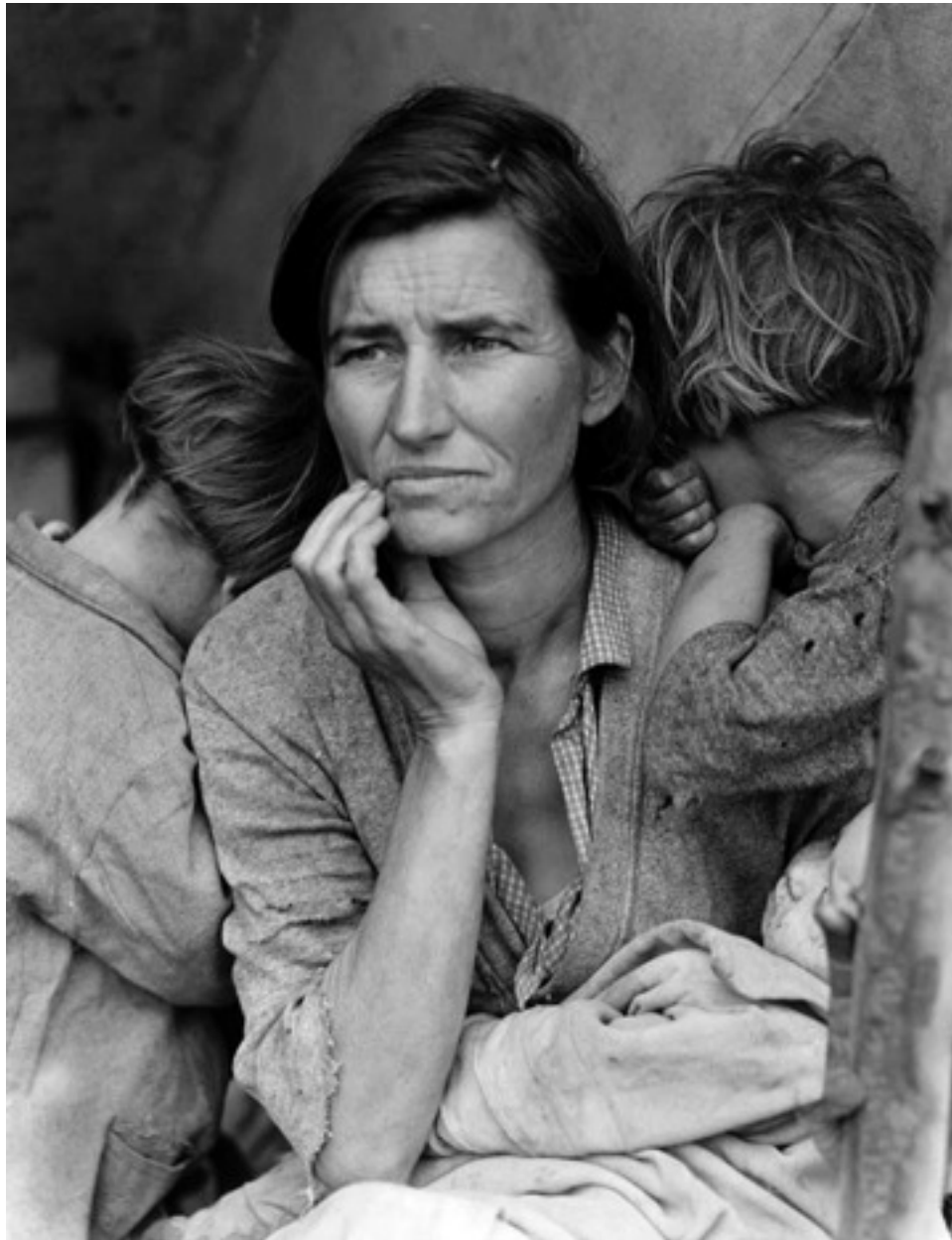


1- Breugel (pronounced Broy-gull), The Massacre of the Innocents
Breugel preached via his art. Here he puts the massacre of the innocents into his own village in his own day in winter so that the audience has to relate to the story.



2- Salvador Dali, The Temptation of St. Anthony

Dali painted this in 1938 after meeting Sigmund Freud. He affirms the symbolic meanings and equates guilt with sin. As a result he was thrown out of The Congress of Surrealists but he went on to paint other religious pictures.



3- Dorothea Lange's photo of a migrant farm mother, 1936

Hired by the government to record the plight of The Dust Bowl, Lange felt that she needed to show the heart of the story, connect in a way that would make people relate and not escape the pathos. She found a Madonna in the dust.



4- Pablo Picasso, Guernica, 1937

Art has been used through the ages to create memorials and monuments so that we cannot forget and so that we continue to feel the importance of events. The Nazis bombed a rural mountain town in Spain to assist Franco's Spanish fascists in their civil war. The stark look came from the cubist technique of painting on newspapers to save money (the print served as a middle gray). Here the "newspaper" reference and cubist mythic icons merge to get across the historic and actual nature of a tragic event and immortalize the pathos.