



**PLATO'S
THEORY ON
ART AND
IMITATION**

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WHAT IS ART

- ‘ Art is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting and sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.’
- ‘ Art means a skill at doing a specified thing, typically one acquired through practice.’



ART IS AN IMITATION BY PLATO

- In his theory of *Mimesis*, Plato says that all art is mimetic by nature; art is an imitation of life. He believed that 'idea' is the ultimate reality. Art imitates idea and so it is imitation of reality.
- He gives an example of a carpenter and a chair. The idea of 'chair' first came in the mind of carpenter. He gave physical shape to his idea out of wood and created a chair. The painter imitated the chair of the carpenter in his picture of chair. Thus, painter's chair is twice removed from reality. Hence, he believed that art is twice removed from reality. He gives first importance to philosophy as philosophy deals with the ideas whereas poetry deals with illusion – things which are twice removed from reality.



CONCLUSION

- According to this theory, since art imitates physical things, which in turn imitate the Forms, art is always a copy of a copy, and leads us even further from truth and toward illusion.
- So the artist, perhaps by divine inspiration, makes a *better* copy of the True than may be found in ordinary experience. Thus the artist is a kind of prophet.



THANKYOU

