

Speculating about the relationship between art and science.

We all have to work, that is: to perform some job or profession, for our daily bread. The degree to which we like our work is an important factor influencing our welfare (satisfaction).

Painting, sculpting, making music and writing are professions too, regardless whether or not one earns his bread with it. They require talent and exercise like many other jobs. The question is: when do these pursuits become art? Or more precisely: what makes a painting, a composition or a musical performance art? The answer to this question cannot be given. In practice we say: when the result has enough expression to affect the hearts and minds of people.

What is the similarity with science? Practicing physics, biology or economics require talent, learning and exercise too. However, can every chemist or master c.q. doctor in French or Sanskrit be called a scientist? In daily speech the answer is 'yes'. But when it comes to a comparison with art, I would say 'no'. In my view, there has in the context of such comparison to be question of an extra. This can hardly be expression. But it *can* be an addition to knowledge.

Does the one influence the other? As far as I am concerned, the answer is: probably not. I have been playing jazz music almost my whole life. School, university and my job as economist always played an independent role next to music. I was in the mid sixties the first economist in Holland and one of the first worldwide to publish about the economic aspects of our not by humans made physical surroundings. I got an extremely simple idea which I am elaborating since then. This idea received both scientific approval and disapproval, especially in the area of politics. It is speculation again and I don't claim to know myself, but maybe I was susceptible for that idea because of a certain artistry that keeps my mind open and prevents it to be caught in conventional wisdom. So the relationship between art and science might exist *inside* a person.

There certainly is a practical relationship. Jan Pen was a fan of my music. He wanted me to tell him how I did it and then started to convince me that I had to study economics. So without Jan the reader would not have found me in this booklet.