

ART AND SCIENCE: A CONVERGING WORLD

Ideas for discussion by Poonam Singh

Art and science are highly interconnected and help us interpret and explore the world around us. While the activities of scientists and artists may differ, they both share one essential component in their work, and that is, the creative process. The scientist who designs an experiment in a lab is no less creative than the artist who creates a sculpture in a studio. Both, artists and scientists have a drive to be creative, share a sensitivity to aesthetics in their work, and possess a desire to make a positive contribution to the welfare of humanity.

Artists and scientists, both are often driven by a sense of purpose or curiosity. The painter projects his state of mind on canvas and creates the forms with their imagination; the work that resembles the concepts a scientist independently discovers with instruments.

Modern art is not interpretable without an understanding of the powerful contributions of science. Many examples of art intersecting with science exist around us. For example, nature has been one of the main sources of artistic inspiration for as long as humans have made art. Artists working in various media observe, interpret and render nature-activities that are very similar to those performed by scientists. Botanical paintings created by many artists throughout the history has helped scientists to document plant details and serve as both historic and scientific records.