

Leonardo's creativity

Creativity is the « summa » of arts and techniques to develop innovation, inspiration, insight, or above all something entirely originate. So, the first association of ideas I shall develop, is: creativity / originality;

These two concepts have the same roots : « Origin » and « creation » means the beginning of the universe, or « at the beginning », but creation is an act of giving, between nothing and something, and « originate » is to begin without , notion of the personality act . « Origin » traces an event back to its apparition.

So the paradox of the word « originate » is a mind movement of return, a chronological or historical phenomenon. The research of the act of birth of distinctive existence as a notion, a body, or an intellectual property. So, I keep the term « originate » for all analysis and practices to define the property and the distinction of a new concept and also all discourses on creativity and novations as meta-languages. The result or finality of creativity is to originate innovation, inspiration, insight, to make something new or to innovate.

The mental being of novation is coming from the philosophy of evolution and the philosophy of progress. We research « the New » because we believe in a doctrine of evolution.

Perhaps is it the reason why creativity has known a regression since the nineties, because of the opposite trend of post-modernity. After that, and the international crisis of advertising, which began with the first war of Irak , theories in creativity stopped growing and specialists began to leave creativity techniques, to develop a meta-language upon the mind, until turning into a dogma, like Sternberg , who proposed the new name of « creatology » .

But may we return to the foundation of thinking creativity: In Plato's philosophy, we find the idea that beauty is a praxis: the arts, ordonated to an idea : the poetic concept or poïen .

Aristotle founded the gramatic in categories, and Pappus of Alexandria had founded technics of creativity into a science of invention named « the Heuristics ». The term « heuristics » is one of the pillars of creativity. The heuristics founded the future on the analysis of the past, based on the concept of learning from experience. So the heuristics is a method of returning rather than all alternatives.

To my young students in high school of arts and techniques, I have developed a discovery of thinking and methods around Leonardo Da Vinci.

Leonardo Da Vinci is the archetype of the engineer in systems. He defined the methods and principles to issue different projects in different disciplines.

He wrote his method on several notebooks in which the rules of modern engineering are defined:

- Daily, how to inject into consciousness all phenomenon and notice them and design to begin an analysis.
- Then how to translate the engineering observed in nature, to imagine artificial engineering applied to project.
- The value cultured by Leonardo Da Vinci was a perpetual new regard upon things, and how to question the reality.

To be ingenious needs to be ingenuous.

What is distinctive between the Heuristics and the method of Leonardo Da Vinci?

“The heuristics” analysed the past human experiences to improve them, but L de V admires what is perfect in the creation, in the nature to try an Art of Perfection in human “artefact”. He put the finality so: How the art could be as perfect as universe is perfect?

In his philosophy, he is environment-friendly, because he knows and loves the ecosystem. His research on the human flight is to use wind. He searches lot of systems which can used the energy of wind or water or animals and he definites in comprehension the system of the

steam machine, and the future secret energy of electricity, without finding it himself . Above all he loves humanity, not as a concept but always in daily reality, so he designs an ideal city, engineered on the finality of property and no illnesses. People live on the highest level and the levels under are the factories and because of pollution, materials fall ; He imagines a system for street cleaning, he separates living from working areas.

The difference between the heuristics methods and Leonardo' s methods is in temporality. Heuristics regards the past, to improve the present. Leonardo looks at the present to imagine the future.

Heuristics analyse what does not work to improve it, and Leonardo analyses what is perfect in creation, to engineer perfect systems. The difference between the two methods is between better and perfect.

To improve is not to engineer : Leonardo understands that creativity is a jump and not a result. He differentiates the impulse of imagining from the evolution. For Leonardo to engineer is the opposite of to involve. The fundamental research of energy and movement of Leonardo initiated the industrial revolution.

Leonardo's method

The method of Leonardo is a basic, pragmatic method. It consists in a daily note book, plus the mind. The daily notebook of Leonardo is named the Codex.

The method of the note book is to notice everything that interests oneself , then, to analyse through the art of questioning , and then to translate into design concepts.

To ask about the most possible questions : « To ask about » is a technique, which needs a training. as soon as Victor Hugo wrote 100 versus before breakfast as a gymnastic of his mind .

We have « to ask about » every day.

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