

Paul Gauguin - The Eye is Superior to the Ear

Painting is the most beautiful of all arts. In it, all sensations are condensed; contemplating it, everyone can create a story at the will of his imagination and, with a single glance, have his soul invaded by the most profound recollections; no effort of memory, everything is summed up in one instant; a complete art, which sums up all the others and completes them. Like music, it acts on the soul through the intermediary of the senses; harmonious colors correspond to the harmonies of sound.

But, in painting a unity is obtained which is not possible in music, where the accords follow one another, so that the judgment experiences a continuous fatigue if it wants to reunite the end with the beginning. **The ear is actually a sense inferior to the eye.** The hearing can only grasp a single sound at a time, whereas the sight takes in everything and simultaneously simplifies it at will.

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