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Manifest in 24

I was going through the archive of old works to recall what I was up to back in the day when I came across this article. I see that not only nothing seems to have changed in the last decade or even in the last century but also everything has worsened... Anyway, eleven years ago in Iran I uploaded this article for the people of the world to read and now I am uploading it from Europe once again for the Iranians.

Today's world is not ours . It is not the world where you and I who have stepped into have human decision-making powers or even the ability to understand it. The valuable words and precious commands of Aristotle, Ali, Confucius, Heraclitus ,etc. can no longer come to the rescue of the human race. The true self-discovery has become extremely burdensome and this is not because of the passage of time, rather it is the direct result of systematic capitalist policies in the world. The powers whose only prop is wealth, yet with its help have been able to control everything. The powers which not only control the governments but also orchestrate the civil revolutions and people's uprisings. The powers that under no circumstances allow any outsiders, objectors or dissidents to stake a claim to anything. On the other hand, the people in the media serve as insidiously as possible as the hirelings of people in power. They ,of course, have no other choice as the concepts like professionalism, source of profit and production have all been subject to manipulation.

Our time is the age of confusion which is passing by. The era when nothing is clear and no truth is uncovered. No faithful and wise men are to be found anywhere: Buddha has taken refuge in the depth of desolate mountains, for fear of encountering researchers and the modern missionaries of his teachings.

In this era of confusion, in which we are living, the thing that was once identified as culture serves a totally different function and has adopted a new altered civic and popular definition. Cultural means of communication like Art, Education and society have so subtly and precisely(or perhaps blindly) taken a new form, so in line with capitalism, that the universal social body never encounters any difficulties even at the height of uprisings and civil disobedience. «Culture industry» is a fake phenomenon which has easily replaced cultural communication and in this regard new invented terms and false communicative means have come into existence.

Honesty and being true to oneself in the creation of a piece of art as well as truthfulness of in the artist himself are traded for more publicity and reputation (and this act of theirs can always be excused and justified by various reasons like having more fans, more peace and a louder voice). In the end what remains of the artist is a broken record and a petty soul introduced as a cultural individual to the public.

Scientific discoveries which first captured investors' attention due to their industrial profitability, also succeeded in attracting the interest of people in the art and culture world. Cinema ,which introduced visual artists to broader visual perspectives , strayed from the original and genuine art path, due to rivalry and investing policies and its ultimate goal in the timeline of human civilization is merely to be sought in cinema halls; like Jazz music which was a human and genuine movement at the outset but was quickly stereotyped. That «s an absolute misconception to consider improvisation in this genre as sublime and serious. Improvisation which had once emerged from the depth of artist's soul, has been reduced to an aesthetic form and cliché which contradicted its true nature. How can playing in tune with predefined distances be compared with true Improvisation?

The more vivid instance of this chaos is the regrettable change in living standards and life style of people in touristy parts of the world. Tourism is a systematic mechanism which promotes consumerism, attacks the world's defenseless cultures by dispatching swarms of tourists to unspoiled and pristine regions...

In the preposterous capitalist system ,which is swept by the unruly wave of mass-production, the alienation reaches its peak. The Production as a value is replaced by consumption as a value and man is exploited as labour force and gets stripped of his human powers and thus becomes alienated. Everybody is fully aware of the crimes and propaganda campaign run

by the press and media, yet are obsessed and enslaved by them. The problem is far worse than it seems. The biggest obsession of most of us is to gain more popularity in the media. Those musicians who thoughtlessly hasten to entrust their pieces to profit-seeking unknowledgeable national or international producers, hoping to enter the world of professionals, not only waste their talents but also pose a serious hazard to the society and art world. Those whose testimony is history books, don't know that it is a waste of time! Day after day the number of people, who claim to be progressive and truthful, merely conformist though, is on the rise.

There are some who cling to a certain school of thought and there are others who at any cost are prepared to imprudently and naively leave the outcome of their efforts in investors and capitalists' hands. Consequently these once opposing and rebellious talents begin to aimlessly spread in the society like weeds and are thus destined to wither away. No one can be found to truly spot these talents and help them thrive. It is obvious that the main purpose has utterly been manipulated and art is no longer an inspirational and expressive social means of communication and the artist's task is reduced to working within predefined conventional frameworks and cliches which are promoted and spread by News and the media. These imposed limitations are readily accepted by the public as this modern slavery system has already nurtured its box-office customers.

Karan Reshad, 2005, Tehran