Philosophy of Art (1)

I think it is too easy to simply say that Plato rejects art and Aristotle thinks art is great. I want to look at a couple of questions from the perspective of both Plato and Aristotle.

Are works of artist frivolous or even dangerous distractions, or do they exhibit something deep and essential about human nature?

What is the relationship between art and “reality?” Is art a poor imitation of reality?

Is art a spiritualization and enrichment of nature – an improvement on the world?

Plato’s objection to art is based on his metaphysics and can be stated in three parts.

 a) Ontological Objection

 b) Epistemological Objection

 c) Moral Objection

Aristotle’s theory of art and his backdoor Platonism.

Aristotle gives us a common-sense metaphysics. In one sense the Forms exist in the objects. The full-blown Form is something that arises in our minds operating on the material of experience. The induction comes for experiencing particular objects.

So what does Aristotle say about the philosophy of art?

 a) Rejects Plato’s ontological objection but still sees art as a form of imitation.

b) Rejects Plato’s epistemological objection as a matter of fact he sees art as superior to history.

c) Rejects Plato’s moral objection