

SPIRITUALE PODCAST

Introduction:

Today we're going to take a slightly different path—the path of beauty. Beauty has been with us ever since humans began drawing their first pictures on cave walls, singing, telling stories, and creating objects that weren't intended solely for practical use. Simply put, when people needed to create something from within, to express it, and to share it with others.

And that is precisely why art is so special. It can convey something that is otherwise difficult to communicate. It can delight us, unsettle us, move us, make us think—and sometimes bring us to a complete standstill for a moment. So today, let's talk about art. But also about whether a work of art can be one of the paths that lead a person to God.

Conversation:

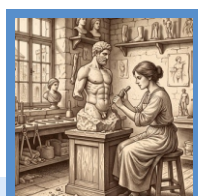
Art is almost as old as humanity itself. Early humans painted animals on cave walls and created ornaments, statuettes, and ritual objects. Later, temples, cathedrals, paintings, sculptures, musical works, and books were created. For centuries, people have used art to express not only what they saw around them, but also what they carried within. And that is precisely what makes art unique. An artist does not merely present us with an image, a melody, a story, or a stone carved into a certain shape. They share a piece of their inner world with us. What they feel, what they know, what they believe, what they fear, or what they long for. When we listen to music, look at a painting, read a book, or stand before a sculpture, we step for a moment into someone else's world—the world of the artist.

And when the work is truly good, we discover something of ourselves in it as well. And this is precisely where the power of art lies.

It doesn't have to explain anything to us. It's enough that it touches us.

Let's imagine, for example, the moment when a person enters a church and hears music. Suddenly, the space around them changes. The sound echoes off the walls, time slows down for a moment, and the person stops thinking about everything they still have to do.

Or they stand in front of a painting and look at it. Not to find out how much it cost, who painted it, or whether it follows the latest trend. They simply look. And it is precisely in this moment that something important can happen.



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They pause. And perhaps even reflect... In contrast to this is today's world. It doesn't really teach us to pause and reflect. On the contrary. Screens, ads, notifications, music, videos, subtitles, photos, news, and a constant stream of information create a kind of visual and auditory smog around us. No sooner does one stimulus end than the next one arrives. And we watch, listen, read, and react. Yet we are actually perceiving less and less. The consumerist world offers us beauty as a commodity—beauty meant to grab our attention, to make us click, buy, watch, and keep going.

This so-called beauty is fleeting. It's striking. In a moment, it's replaced by another, different one. And again. And again.

True art, however, often does the exact opposite. It doesn't shout, "Look at me!" Instead, it says, "Stop."

A good work of art doesn't have to be easy at first glance. We don't have to like it right away. It might even unsettle us. Because true art leaves room for our imagination. For questions. For our own experience.

And that's when we discover the fundamental difference between art and kitsch.

Kitsch often tells us everything in advance. It dictates what we're supposed to feel, how we're supposed to perceive the work, and where the emotion is supposed to be. We don't have to look for anything. We don't have to think.

Kitsch is essentially finished, and thus it stifles our imagination. Kitsch simply doesn't need a perceptive viewer.

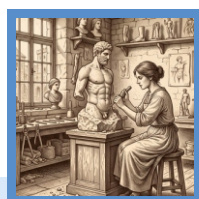
True art, on the other hand, leaves the door open for us. It doesn't explain. It gives us space to search. And often, to find.

That search—that's what's important. And it's essential in each of our lives. Because in art, we're not just looking for beauty. We should also be looking for truth.

The truth about the world. About humanity. About ourselves.

A good work of art offers the perceptive viewer insights into joy and pain, love and loneliness, hope and death. It shows us that through it, we can touch spirituality.

When we look at a painting that fills us with wonder, listen to music that touches us deeply, or read words that linger in our minds long after we've closed the book, we experience something that transcends us. Suddenly, we are no longer merely consumers of a work of art. We are human beings encountering enduring beauty—a beauty that has the special power to uplift us.



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No, it certainly won't solve our problems. But it reminds us that the world is not just a collection of duties, bills, news, performance, and worries. That there is also mystery. There is wonder. There is something we cannot fully explain. The Christian tradition views beauty as one of the paths to truth and goodness. God is not present only in what we can name. He also speaks to us through beauty. Beauty touches us and opens up space within us for important questions. That is why art holds such an important place in spiritual life as well. Art: music, architecture, paintings, sculptures, literature, poetry—and today also film, photography, and other modern forms of artistic expression. Forms change over time. But people remain the same. We are always searching for beauty. We are always searching for meaning. We are always asking what is true and what is good. And we always long for something that transcends us. Perhaps that is precisely why it makes sense to turn off the screen sometimes, put down the phone, and—instead of an endless stream of stimuli—listen to a hymn, read a book, look at a painting, or simply step into a church and take a moment to look around. We don't have to judge anything. We don't have to buy anything. We don't have to rush anywhere. It's enough to simply perceive and let beauty work its magic.

And perhaps it is precisely then that we'll discover that the path to God doesn't always have to begin with a word or a prayer. Sometimes it can simply begin with a single moment of silent wonder.

In conclusion:

Beauty isn't just a decoration in life. It's often its deeper language. And it's precisely through beauty that we often catch a glimpse of something greater, something that always transcends us.

Try to treat yourself to a moment during the day when you aren't watching, judging, or shopping.

Play some music you love. Open a book. Pause in front of a painting. Take in the architecture around you. Or simply step into a church and spend a moment quietly reflecting.

And the next time you're in Vranov, try looking at things through a slightly different lens—at the church, the architecture, the paintings, the sculptures, the music that plays here, and the surrounding landscape. Don't just see them as something beautiful. But as something that makes you pause and shows you the way. It raises questions you wouldn't even ask yourself in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

And the answer? You've had it in your heart all along. You just have to find it through art...

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