

Attachment to the created object: artistic labor and the ability to let go
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Abstract

This study explores the relationship an artist has to the created object by determining the variables that have an affect on the artist's attachment and the ability to let go of their created object. This study also investigates the literature surrounding object relations, attachment, and creativity, which is juxtaposed with the current cultural trends of art in the 20th to 21st centuries. Through interviews and samples of each artist's work, variables that affect attachment to the created object were identified: in addition, variables affecting the artist's ability to let these objects go were also identified. Self identity in relation to the created object was the most significant variable effecting attachment. However, an emphasis on process, and not product was most associated with the need to let these objects go. This study used object relations theory and examined the knowledge and experiences of artists in the production of their art.