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Greeting for the presentation of the ART PRIZE GERMANY 2023/24

Every person, every city, every country and every continent has its story. And to a large extent, these stories shape the image we create of ourselves and of those around us. Our cultural heritage makes us who we are. It determines our worldview and our worldview determines our actions.

All cultures are in constant change. Basically, all civilizations and cultures are amazing hybrids. Historically speaking, they developed through exchange and synthesis, through the encounter of different peoples, religions and philosophies. The different cultures of this world have never been pure, self-contained units that developed out of themselves.

“Probably nothing in the world has to endure more nonsensical remarks than a painting in a gallery,” said Edmond de Goncourt. So what can one say publicly about art? "Have the courage to use your own reason," Kant said. I would add: Stand by your feeling, even if it doesn't agree with that of the general public.

When we feel joy and creative excitement, we will always find a way to express ourselves. In order to sing, one must first have a song in one's heart. If you then really want to write a poem, you write it, in whatever form. But then what is art? “Becoming human is an art”, the poet Novalis reminds us!

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