

ABSTRACT

ART AND CONSCIOUSNESS

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE
FROM 1812 TO 2112

Consciousness is an elusive concept, and as such, most attempts to define it do so in relation to something else. In this article the object in relation to which consciousness is defined is Arts and cultural history, and so this article will present art in a baseline scenario from 1812 to 2112 in order to extract an understanding of the changes in consciousness underlying or entwined in the cultural evolution. Furthermore, changes within the art world points at changes of importance with regard to our conception of nature and body. This is specifically relevant in relation to our investigation of sustainability and growth in the In100Years-project.

The timeline is partly based on a reading of cultural history, and partly by constructing a forecast based on the historical evolution. While the findings are thus in part speculative, they also reveal key dimensions of the historical interplay of art, culture and consciousness.

Among the main findings is an evolution where the artistic privilege, the artist as a rogue, an outsider and a genius, gets progressively integrated in society and the aesthetic dimension in everyday life. This is mirrored by a change in consciousness where the imaginary is awarded a status equal to the rational, and where perception and experience is as ingrained as contemplation and computation.

