

INTRODUCTION

The Art of Restoration

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Soap and water applied to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel not only uncovered a feast for the eyes in pastels but shed a different light on the personality of Michelangelo himself. Although the results of the restoration of that particular work of art caused some feelings of ambivalence in the art world, the fact that it revealed the true intent of the great artist could not, finally, be denied.

There are probably as many theories and approaches to the psychological side of human beings as there are in the study of art, most of which scrutinize, compare, and finally attempt to bring back the original nature of the work of creation. One would say that most of the innovations in each field of restoration have been suggested by well-meaning individuals but some cause for alarm exists as to the true nature of what had been prescribed toward this goal. Many have succeeded only in slopping more debris over the original and forcing Nature even further into the background.

The psyche, like a painting, accumulates layers and layers of dirt and protective varnish both from our develop-