

How to Listen to the Best Album Ever By Mr. Kruglinski

Art can dazzle the mind, feed the soul, make us feel deep emotions, and make our lives more rich and interesting. However, art does not affect all people. How many people walk into an art museum and quickly decide, "This is boring."

I sometimes wish I enjoyed art more than I do. Some people listen to a beautiful song and they start crying tears of happiness. That has never happened to me. A few years ago I decided I would try to enjoy art more, and I decided to start at the top: "I want to listen to the best singer in the world. I want to view the best painting in the world. I want to read the best book in the world." I used the internet to research expert opinion: What is considered the very best art? I was surprised that many experts consider *The Great Gatsby* a masterpiece and perhaps one of the best books ever written. "The Great Gatsby?" I thought with some contempt. "I remember being so bored with that book in high school. Why was I forced to read it?" (It is actually very rare for a Language Arts teacher to assign a bad book. What usually happens instead, is that you are assigned a great book that you just think is bad.)

I decided to read it again, this time as an adult with plenty of life experience. Well, it was still pretty boring. But I decided to be patient. I searched for the excellence in the book. When I really looked, I found the excellence and started to really enjoy it. What about music? Rolling Stone magazine listed the top 100 rock albums of all times and number-one on the list was Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band by the Beatles. Okay, it was time for me to give that album a serious listen. I turned the lights low and put on my best headphones. It was a good album, but how was this the very best? I went online and read what experts had to say. I realized that you have to listen to the album in the context of when it came out. I listened to other popular rock songs of the sixties and got in a "sixties mindset." Then I listened to the album again.

This time I got it. At a time when almost all rock bands were electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, and drums, this album broke the mold by introducing all kinds of new sounds and effects. It was the first album to blend each song together. It was so innovative that it changed music forever. And so many fans, at that time, heard it for the first time and said, "Wow!" It is a powerful moment when a person decides to search for the beauty and the art in something great. I highly recommend that journey.