

SINCERITY³¹

Another word that is very fashionable today and yet is devoid of all meaning, is *sincerity*. This word is quite frequently applied to works of art. What does being sincere mean to an artist? One can be sincere in friendship, love, business, and social relations in general, that is, in life, but in art one is always sincere; this means that by *force majeure* an artist is always sincere in the exercise of his art.

The artist always does only that which he is capable of doing; he cannot surpass himself, for he can only attain the level that his talent and artistic abilities allow him to reach. Besides, an artist will never try to do less well than he is capable of doing. Remember what I have told you several times, it is not the subject but only quality that matters in art.

The value of an artist consists not in what he does, but solely in how he does it. Rest assured, you critics and intellectuals, in art things do not take place as they do in your speeches; in art everyone is sincere. I want to add that if your speeches are not always sincere, oh critics and intellectuals, console yourselves for, whenever you speak and whenever you write, you always reveal the degree of your intelligence with the utmost sincerity.

31 G. de Chirico, *La sincerità*, signed "Isabella Far" in *Commedia...*, cit., p. 200. Published in English here for the first time.