

In medieval philosophy, John Chrysostom held that "the name of art should be applied to those only which contribute towards and produce necessities of life". Thomas Aquinas, when treating the adornment of women, gives an ethical justification as "in the case of an art directed to the production of goods which men cannot use without sin, it follows that the workmen sin in making such things, as directly affording others an occasion of sin; for instance, if a man were to make idols or anything pertaining to idolatrous worship. But in the case of an art the products of which may be employed by man either for a good or for an evil use, such as swords, arrows, and the like, the practice of such an art is not sinful.