Photography and Willingness

Plato and Aristotle

The photograph is the modern form of the ancient concept of the 'willingness to appear'. In Plato's 'Republic', the photograph is described as a 'reproduction' or 'shadow' of the ideal form. Aristotle, in his 'Nicomachean Ethics', compares the photograph to a 'copy' or 'imitation' of reality.

In the modern era, the photograph has become a powerful tool for expressing ideas and emotions. The ability to capture a moment in time and preserve it for later viewing has given rise to a new art form - the photographic print. The photograph is a universal language that transcends cultural and linguistic barriers.

The photograph is also a medium for social change. It has been used to document the atrocities of war and oppression, and to raise awareness about issues such as poverty, homelessness, and environmental degradation.

In photography, the concept of 'willingness to appear' is embodied in the photographer's decision to capture a particular moment. The photographer's choice of subject, angle, and timing all contribute to the final image. The photograph is not just a record of the past, but a reflection of the photographer's perspective and the values that they hold dear.

Photography is a medium that continues to evolve and adapt to the changing world. As technology advances, new methods of capturing and manipulating images are being developed. The future of photography is sure to be exciting and full of new possibilities.