

# [Art history reflection](https://assignbuster.com/art-history-reflection/)

Having read Kaufmann`s article “ National Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Aesthetic Judgments in the Historiography of Art” I might say that it left me very impressed due to the multiple occurrences of racial and regional prejudice of the art historians, which sometimes bear a proto-anthropological character. I found out that Giorgio Vasari disdained German art, only because German masters came to study art in Italy (Kaufmann 72-73). To my mind, such self-conceit regards other art historians, mentioned in the article, too. As, for example, David Hume, which stated that he “ specifically excluded Africans from the categories of culture and taste” (Kaufmann 76-77). In my opinion, art and culture in general can be evaluated in the context of specific climate and people`s traditions, but I strongly disagree with racist approach to art. I would rather agree with Winkelmann, who claimed that “ art is dependent on national character” and “ national character was influenced by heaven” (climate) (Kaufmann 79).

Mercer`s article “ Romare Bearden: African-American Modernism At Mid-Century” acquainted me with one of the most renowned African-American artist of the 20th mid-century, Romare Bearden. It appears to me that Bearden was an intelligent and patriotic man, which cleverly stated his position in his attempts to find a place for a ‘ negro man’ in American artistic culture. Even in the late 20ies ‘ black’ art was limited by racial prejudice and depreciation. At that time Bearden stated that a “ Negro artist must not be content with merely recording a scene as a machine. He must enter wholeheartedly into the situation he wishes to convey.” (Mercer 33). Such viewpoint was forward-looking enough for the ‘ in word’ democratic America, and such artist as Bearden was one of the indispensable saviors of the “ peculiarly backward negro art” (Mercer 33). Bearden`s collages, as well as his photomontage works are highly heartfelt and reveal the African-American “ emotional, as well as social realities” (Mercer 30).