Essays in Cultural Economics

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Short summary

My thesis develops relevant aspects connected with the consumption, appreciation and creation of artistic quality.

The first two essays study originality and copies as a particular aspect of artistic quality. In particular, the first chapter focuses on the distortions that are generated in the art market by the presence of informational asymmetries and uncertainty of dealing with originals, copies, fakes or wrongly attributed works.

The second essay empirically tests how originality — among other artistic and market characteristics — is priced by the market. The market for prints by Rembrandt is considered.

The third and last essay investigates the policy impact on the demand for arts/music education in terms of subsidies and other reforms, with an application to French-speaking Belgium.