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I wish to make no competitive claim for the importance of Neizvestny's art. Obviously I consider his art important, or I would not have spent a year thinking and writing about it. Yet during that year I have come to see that the arranging of artists in a hierarchy of merit is an idle and essentially dilettante process. What matters are the needs which art answers.

John Berger, Preface, "Art and Revolution/ Ernst Neizvestny and the Role of the Artist in the U.S.S.R.", Pantheon Books, New York, 1969