

It's Good Enough for Who It's For

I used to paint apartments after tenants had moved out. My boss paid me by the hour. I hate painting, but was raised to do my best. It used to irritate my boss to see me meticulously and painstakingly paint trim and in areas behind furniture. He would tell me to hurry up and get the job done. I responded by telling him that I was going as fast as I could go and still cover the wood with paint. His response was always the same: "It's good enough for who it's for."

By this he meant that these were inexpensive apartments for tenants who either didn't care or could not afford to be picky. I was not painting penthouses for the idle rich, who had nothing better to do than look at the paint for mistakes. In short, the quality of the job was not as important as the speed with which it was accomplished. I was not doing art work. I was simply to hurry up and get it done. It's good enough for who it's for.

It is not unlike our democratic society. If we look at what the unenlightened masses, our *hoi polloi*, are doing to entertain themselves, we will see rap, heavy metal, insipid situation comedies, "reality" T.V., cheap movies and "dance" that has been degraded to mere spastic motions. Looking only a little further, we will see those who have mutilated their bodies with piercing and tattoos, or "decorated" them with weird hair cuts or painted hair. Few of them can give a cogent reason for having done these things to themselves beyond "it's cool." Such decadence is everywhere in evidence, displayed proudly and enjoyed loudly by those who can imagine nothing better. If, on the other hand, we look at those who have educated themselves and acquired good taste in literature, music, art, dining and social skills, we may see that they have indeed discovered something better. But we won't know *why* it is better until we educate *our* tastes. Only then can we truly understand with certainty that high culture *is* better than low culture and *why*. Until then we have only two options: either we must happily admit that we are willfully unrefined or, we must in ignorant self defense, claim that low culture is just as good as high culture. In either case, however, we will remain uneducated, and low culture will continue to be "good enough for who it's for."