



Speaker 1: John Calvin was a Protestant reformer in Switzerland. Part of his reforms involve the removal of external distractions to spirituality and this was extended to the arts. Music was stripped down to the bare bones and the visual arts were considered idolatry if they were depicting religious figures or stories. Secular art was considered frivolous and not at all in line with a pious upright lifestyle. The teachings of John Calvin can be traced to the Puritans many of whom came to North America. This explains to a degree why the European immigrants to America did not create a thriving and innovative art culture for hundreds of years, and instead focus more on the beauty of functional items.

[00:00:48] [END OF AUDIO]