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*Mathematics as a Liberating Art*

In contemporary society, “liberal arts” is widely understood as synonymous with “humanities” and distinguished from STEM and professional disciplines. A growing faction views liberal arts education as partisan and detrimentally impractical, and, thus, diametrically opposed to the practical disciplines and vocational training they champion. However, until relatively recently, mathematics was considered to be a crucial component of a liberal arts education rather than a rival alternative. I argue that conceiving of mathematics as a liberating art is an important first step in overcoming this troubling divisiveness in education.