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## Ars Naturae Imitatio: Stoa, Plotinus, Augustine

Omnis ars naturae imitatio est.<sup>1</sup>

### *Summary*

*The article presents three late ancient variants of the idea “Ars Naturae Imitatio” (Seneca, Ep. 65,3), focusing on the question of what art imitates in each of them: nature the artist according to the Stoics; the structures of the divine Intellect in Plotinus; the numerical symmetry which is based in the intra-divine equality, according to Augustine. What all the authors treated in this article have in common is the anagogical role of art, which follows and thus reveals the divine origin of the world and the soul. Human art imitates nature in its creativity but, like nature, it unfolds the structures hidden in the soul and the world. Both Plotinus and Augustine differ from the Stoics in presupposing a transcendent basis of these structures and, at the same time, in understanding art as a place of their possible visibility.*

<sup>1</sup> SENECA: Ep. 65,3.