The observation of painters who crafted their art in Ouro Preto (Brazil) during the 20th century, leads to a question: which is the relation between painting and the tourist's perception? Based on a historical research, this article aims to analyze the tourist-historic city perception as being a social and psychological production. Thus being, one usually notices the artistic activities blending with politics and economics practices on the creation of the tourist's perception.

KEY WORDS: cultural tourism; perception; visual arts; Psychology and Tourism.