

Quotations

The human ability to create is God's gift. Through it he calls people to join him in bringing joy and fulfillment to the earth and all its creatures. Such creativity is not the exclusive preserve of the artist.

-Bill Hall and Robert Cooper, **Arts and Recreation**

There is no distinction between the artist and the person who has experienced God.

-Matthew Fox

All art is cosmos, cosmos found within chaos. At least all Christian art (by which I mean all true art)... To paint a picture or to write a story or to compose a song is an incarnational activity. The artist is a servant who is willing to be a birth giver... the artist should be like Mary who, when the angel told her that she was to bear the Messiah, was obedient to the command...each work of art, whether it is a work of great genius or something very small, comes to the artist and says, "Here I am. Enflesh me. Give birth to me."...

-Madeline L'Engle, **Walking on Water**

Art arouses our awareness. One function of art is to allow us to grapple with our own problems/struggles from a safe distance... Arts have the potential to enlarge our sense of compassion because they lead us to encounter experiences that we would otherwise avoid.

- Leland Ryken, **The Liberated Imagination**

Art is the symbol of the two noblest human efforts: to construct and to refrain from destruction.

-Simone Weil

...The arts are essential to the health of any society, the Church's primary role ... is therefore to support and encourage the arts for their own sake, not simply to make use of them for purposes of decoration, enhancing worship or illustrating some theological point.... Artists contribute, therefore, not as mere illustrators of the Church's truths, but because they have their own perception of the truth to share...Their task is like that of the Holy Spirit, "to open eyes that are closed, hearts that are unaware and minds that shrink from too much reality"

-Robert Cooper, **Exploring Common Ground**

God reveals truth not only in the Bible but also in creation, including culture and human reason. God's common grace endows all people, believers and unbelievers alike, with a capacity for truth, goodness, beauty and creativity... We should be prepared to find truth and grace in artists who are not themselves Christian.

- Leland Ryken

Basically there can be no categories such as "religious" art and "secular" art because all true art is incarnational and therefore "religious" ...Some of those soppy pictures of Jesus, looking like a tubercular, fair-haired, blue-eyed goy, are far more secular than a Picasso mother and child.

-Madeline L'Engle

Christ came to redeem and transform human life, not just affirm what he saw- no artists work has fulfilled it's purpose to simply record the misery of human life. Their calling is to wrest beauty and meaning from a fallen world and to help others to do so.

- Leland Ryken

Christian artists who before God know what they are doing artistically—wary of being fooled by the artistic principalities and powers of this age—must persist in converting modern art into a language of healing insight. God's people everywhere should pray for Christian modern artists.

-Calvin Seerveld

...To serve any discipline of art is to affirm meaning, despite all the ambiguities and tragedies and misunderstanding which surround us...

-Madeline L'Engle

Many social problems have arisen precisely because our society has not taken the time and expended the energy to be truly artistic and to value beauty.... some inner city problems will be solved only on an aesthetic basis.

- Leland Ryken

The first mistake of Art is to assume that it's serious.

-Lester Bangs

One of the prime achievements in every good fiction has nothing to do with truth or philosophy at all.... Every episode, explanation, description, dialogue- ideally every sentence- must be pleasurable for it's own sake

-C.S Lewis

Art is awareness. Awareness is art. An artist can be defined as one who is aware, intentional. We are called to awareness, to be artists. If one is truly aware of oneself, of one's posture before God, of God's impartial love for the world, then the art to which we are called is that of social justice- of allowing God's creative spirit into our broken lives then bringing/being God's creative force in the world/ in the lives of the oppressed/broken/forgotten all around us.

Bibliography

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http://www.calvin.edu/worship/lit_arts/