



ART AND GRATITUDE

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I believe the impulse to create art must start with gratitude. An artist does not simply wake to a new day - they wake to worlds of possibilities, visions, and splendors. The artistic eye does not take for granted the colors of an early morning sunrise or the way steam comes off of the pavement in the summer months' dew.



It does not see a rainy day as the end of opportunities but as a smokey jazz waltz painting the air with heavy tones. It looks at the tiniest details- the smallest flecks of color in an eye which turn it from grey to green- and celebrates them. The artistic eye therefore is the ultimate form of gratitude, taking in moods, moments, fleeting details



and enlarging, permanentizing, celebrating, and immortalizing what could have gone unnoticed.

I knew I had this artistic eye from a very young age, staring up at the silken rainbow ombre mobile in my crib, deeply contemplating color and texture. My parents were involved in the arts. My father, in advertising, sculpture and painting, following his father's photorealistic painting and color abilities. My grandfather was actually hired by the US military for his ability to capture exact shades of color and code when gases turned deadly by color change. My mother was more of a fashion illustrator with a personal flair towards the sequined. All of which influenced me and my younger sister, Dawn, who turned art into a trade as an interior designer. But I knew I was an artist because of my gratitude. The unbridled bursting joy I felt upon waking each morning to God's art was almost overwhelming. I was, and am, so highly aware of how lucky I felt to be alive on such a beautiful planet. I never got over it.





All of this compelled me to create. I paint, decorate, design, draw, do interesting makeup, curate fashion, take photos constantly, dance, choreograph, direct, act, write, compose, song write, play instruments, and sing.

I describe all of this as pan-artistic as the desire to create and leave something original on the earth doesn't often stay in a discreet 'cage'.

The desire to create art expands as artists allow their own minds and ideas to expand. We are constantly 'looking' with this artistic eye. And we are never satisfied to have 'figured something out'. There is always another way to turn the subject, to flip it, to re-sketch from another angle. This is part of the joy of being an artist- the willingness to begin again with that sense of gratitude for the chance to.





Gratitude is the most important mistress to art. As artists, we are keenly aware that we are brave and lucky. Art is not a carved path, or a safe one. Art takes chances and necessitates the bold to step forward. Art needs to be curated, cared for, developed, and birthed from a human sensitivity. Artists know how rarified brilliance is and how stunning subtle moments are. For this, as artists, we are grateful. And the circle of gratitude completes with those eyes who behold the beauty we have left behind.

