



PEACEMAKERS

Prophets, Painters & Poets

The poet's calling

We create art for all kinds of reasons: beauty, meaning making, protest, storytelling.

Who are the prophets, preachers, poets, painters who were so compelled to make something to share in the world?

WEEK 3



APRIL 21, 2024

BIBLE READING

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Holy One say,
“Whom should I send, and who will go for us?”
I said, “I’m here; send me.”

POETRY

And I said to him:
Are there answers to all
of this?
And he said:
The answer is in a story
and the story is being told.

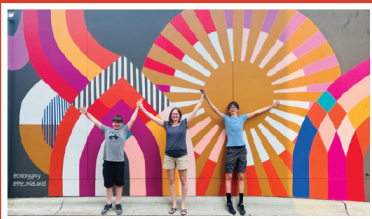
And I said:
But there is so much pain
And she answered, plainly:
Pain will happen.

Narrative Theology #1 by Padraig o tuama

Then I said:
Will I ever find meaning?
And they said:
You will find meaning
where you give meaning.

The answer is in a story
and the story isn't finished.

Submit your photo!



When you visit a mural, snap a photo! Even better if it's a photo with **you** in it! Submit your photos to info@lakenokomis.org by May 15th. Then, watch — you might just show up in a slide show!

Creativity is a Muscle

Creativity — that is, the use of the **imagination** to come up with a new idea or a different way to solve a problem — happens every day. The capacity to be creative is built into human beings at a biological level. Being creative is so natural, so basic to humanity, that very few of us even notice when we're doing it.

As a result, most people don't realize creativity can be practiced. What Western society calls "art" is, in actuality, a language of cultural codes and behaviors to help human beings develop their creativity both individually and collectively. While many people (mainly adults) say "I haven't an artistic bone in my body," creative ability is always there — like a muscle — to be developed and strengthened in each person as an integral part of their lives, throughout their lives.

The more you practice, the more creative you can become.

The people we call "artists" are those who exercise, apply and hone their creative muscles regularly through one or more artistic disciplines, such as theater, painting, music, multimedia, poetry and sculpture. **Actors** study how the voice and body communicate feelings. **Painters** study color, light and composition. **Videomakers** study motion, rhythm, sound.

In reality, being an artist is similar to being an athlete. Some are professional, some are amateurs, some are geniuses, but their basic skills all require continuous practice.

*Excerpt from **Beginner's Guide to Community-Based Arts** by Keith Knight*



**Lake Nokomis
Lutheran Church**
Enough for everyone

lakenokomischurch.org

5011 S 31st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55417

A MESSAGE from PASTOR SARA

What is your relationship to art? Are you an artist? An appreciator of art? Intimidated by art? Neutral or indifferent when it comes to art? When I look at this week's mural I see a diverse human experience. Each seeing the world through a different lens, each called in some way to create.

It's helpful to know that some of the best and most brilliant artists among us understand art, not principally as something to showcase or show-off, but most essentially as a calling from within.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us."

Walter Meigs: "Experience, even for painter, is not exclusively visual."

Georgia O'Keefe: "I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life and I've never let it keep me from a single thing that I wanted to do."

George Tooker: "Painting is an attempt to come to terms with life. There are as many solutions as there are human beings."

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: "Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose."

Paul Gauguin: "I shut my eyes in order to see."

Duke Ellington: "I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues."

Agnes De Mille: "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark."

Fyodor Dostoyevsky: "Taking a new step uttering a new word is what people fear most."

Holy One, you have
called me into this world,
given me life and breath,
filled me with hope,
and promised an abundance of grace.

A PRAYER

Now, lead me to trust this calling,
to rely on your goodness,
to mirror your love,
to speak, create, love, and listen. **Amen.**

Questions for reflection:

- What is your calling?

That's not a hypothetical question! Is it visual art, poetry, music or craft? Is it the art of conversation, the art of forgiveness, the art of compromise, the art of service, the art of kindness, the art of teaching? Keep going ... is your call to the art of justice, generosity, humility or prayer?

- How are you nurturing that call? How are you sharing that call with the world?