

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS PANEL DISCUSSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 • 10 AM - 12:15 PM

STUDENT COMMONS THEATER

MODERATOR: STEPHEN ALCORN



THE
POWER
OF
PARADOX
IN
ART



A
FORUM



vcuarts

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IN PRAISE OF THE PARADOXICAL

One must not think slightingly of the paradoxical...for the paradox is the source of the thinker's passion, and the thinker without a paradox is like a lover without feeling: a paltry mediocrity.

~Søren Kierkegaard

par·a·dox (p_r__-d_ks_) n.

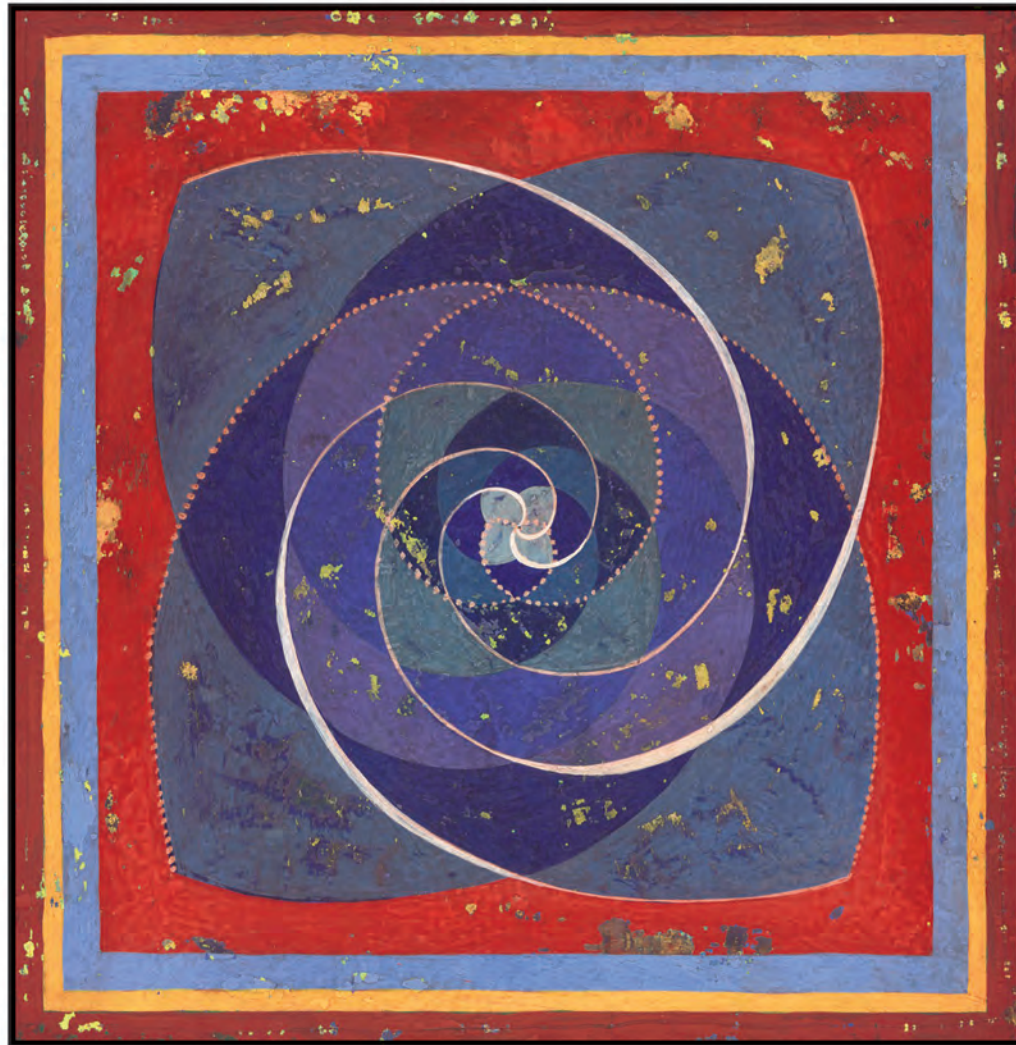
1. A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true: the paradox that standing is more tiring than walking.
2. One exhibiting inexplicable or contradictory aspects: "The silence of midnight, to speak truly, though apparently a paradox, rung in my ears" (Mary Shelley).
3. An assertion that is essentially self-contradictory, though based on a valid deduction from acceptable premises.
4. A statement contrary to received opinion.

Etymology

paradox (n.)

1530s, "statement contrary to common belief or expectation," from Middle French paradoxe (14c.) and directly from Latin paradoxum "paradox, statement seemingly absurd yet really true," from Greek paradoxon, noun use of neuter of adjective paradoxos "contrary to expectation, incredible," from para- "contrary to" (see para- (1)) + doxa "opinion," from dokein "to appear, seem, think".

Meaning "statement that is seemingly self-contradictory yet not illogical or obviously untrue" is from 1560s.



ABSTRACTION

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It should not be hard for you to stop sometimes and look into the stains of walls, or ashes of a fire, or clouds, or mud or like places, in which... you may find really marvellous ideas.

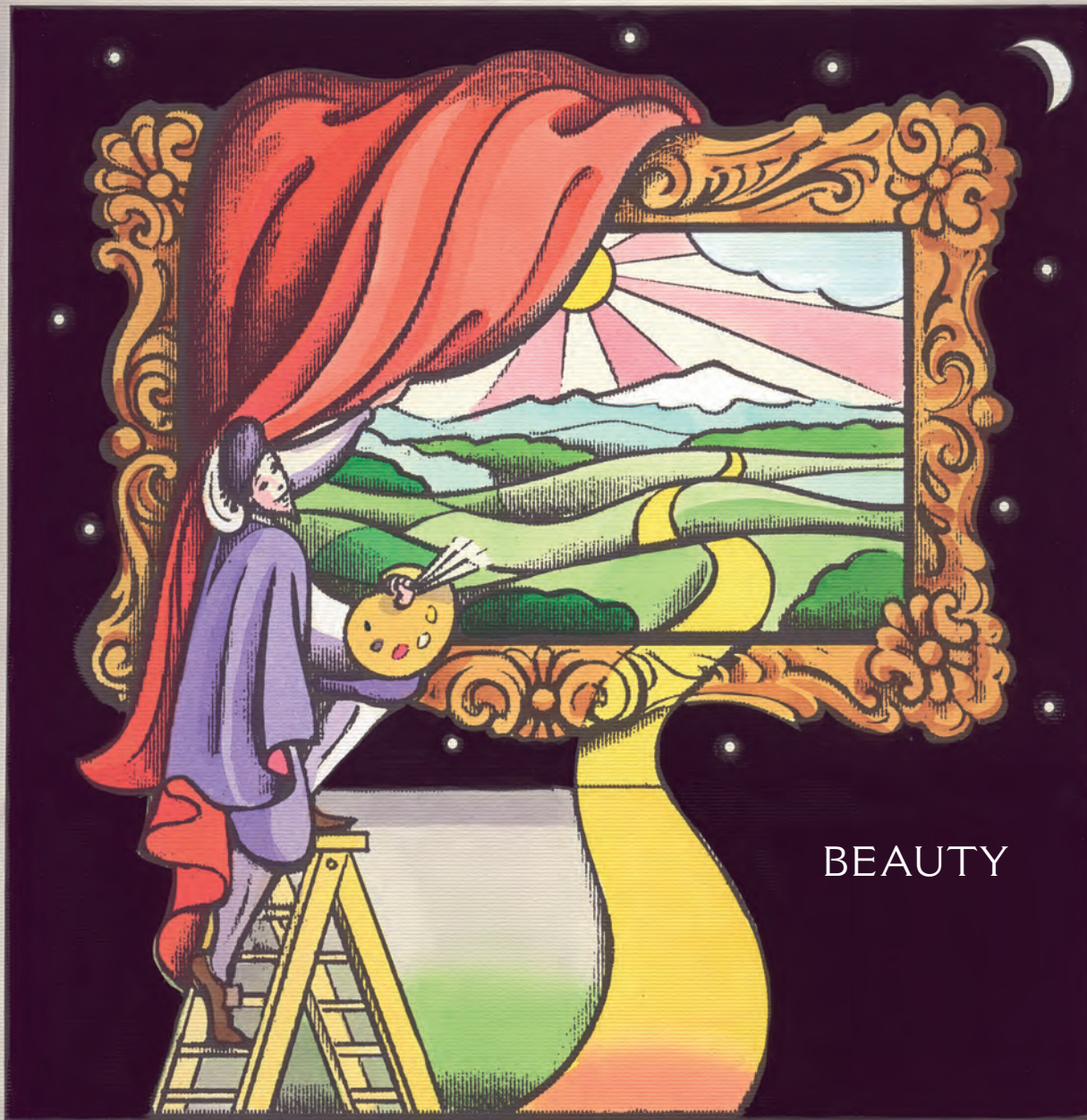
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All our knowledge has its origin in our perceptions.

~ Leonardo da Vinci

There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality.

~ Pablo Picasso



BEAUTY

BEAUTY

Since love grows within you, so Beauty grows. For love is the beauty of the soul.

~ Saint Augustine

Whatever the imagination seizes as Beauty must be truth-whether it existed before or not.

~ John Keats

There is no exquisite beauty... without some strangeness in the proportion.

~Edgar Allan Poe

Love of beauty is taste. The creation of Beauty is art.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

When you do something noble and beautiful and nobody noticed, do not be sad. For the sun every morning is a beautiful spectacle and yet most of the audience still sleeps.

~ John Lennon



COLOR

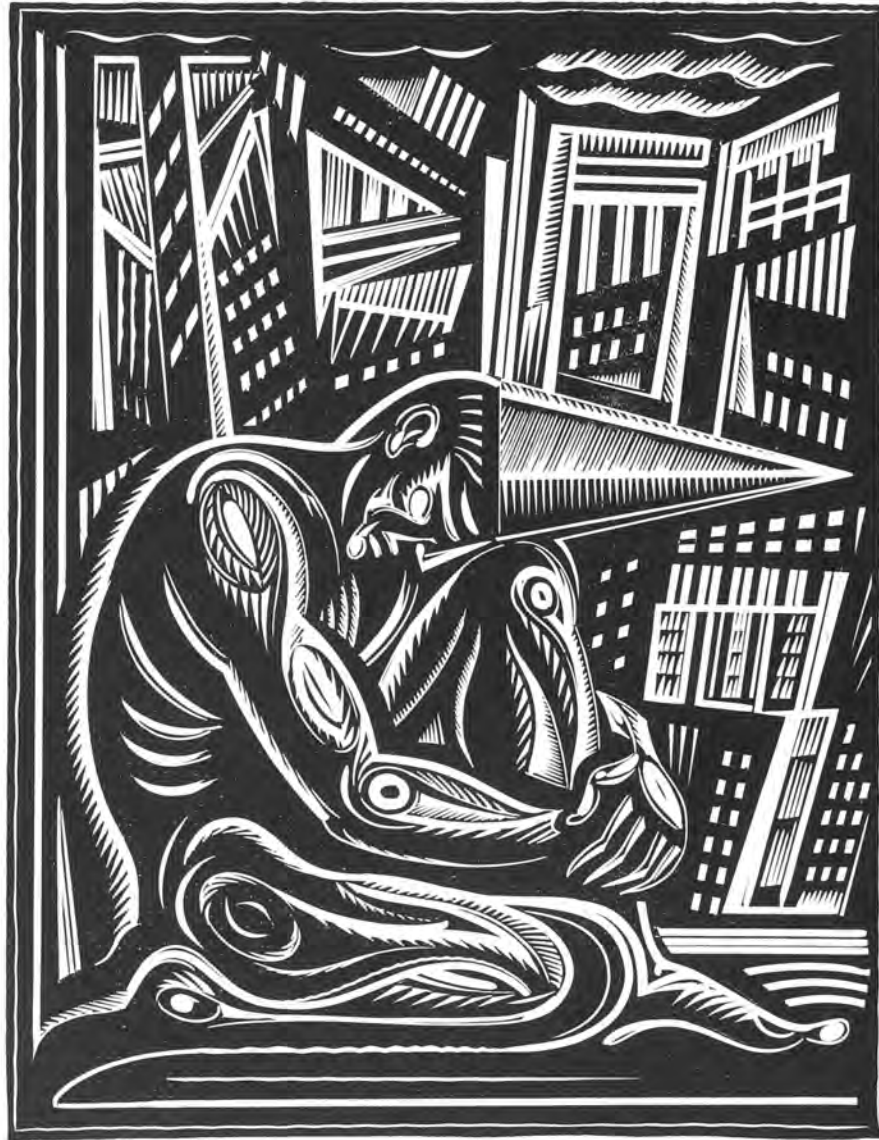
COLOR

It is the eye of ignorance that assigns a fixed and unchangeable color to every object; beware of this stumbling block.

~ Paul Gauguin

Colors, like features, follow the changes of the emotions.

~ Pablo Picasso



CONSTRAINTS

CONSTRAINTS

Art lives from constraints and dies from freedom.

~ Leonardo da Vinci

Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.

•

There has to be a rule, even if it's a bad one, because the evidence of art's power is in breaking down the barriers.

~ Pablo Picasso

The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self.
And the arbitrariness of the constraint serves only to obtain precision of execution.

~Igor Stravinski

Writing free verse is like playing tennis with the net down.

~ Robert Frost



COURAGE

COURAGE

Do the thing you fear most and the death of fear is certain.

~ Mark Twain

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.

~ Lao Tzu



DREAMS

DREAMS

Hope is a waking dream.

~ Aristotle

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things that escape those who dream only at night.

~ Edgar Allen Poe

I dream of painting and then I paint my dream.

~ Vincent Van Gogh



HONESTY

HONESTY

Drawing is the honesty of the art. There is no possibility of cheating. It is either good or bad.

~ Salvador Dali

Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.

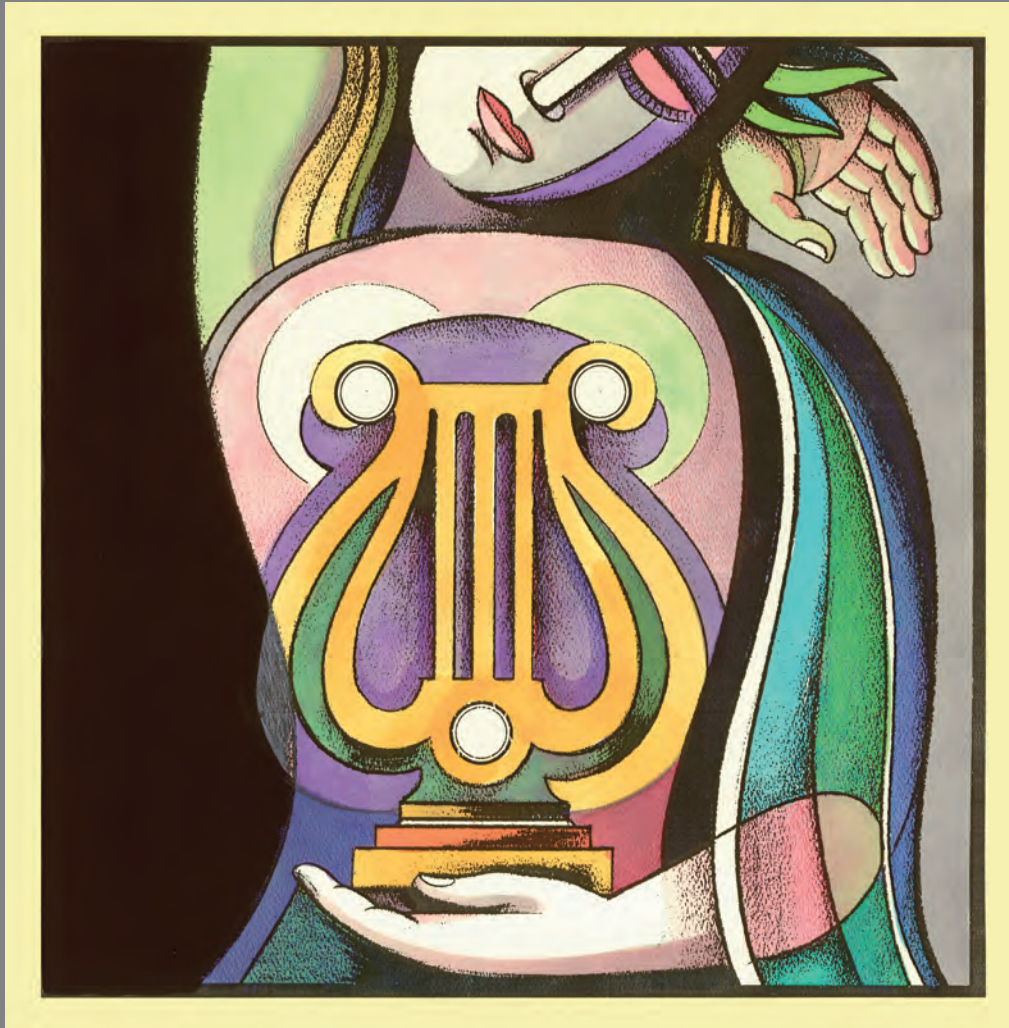
~ Picasso

It is inaccurate to say that I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency. This makes me forever ineligible for public office.

~ H. L. Mencken

The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

~ Groucho Marx



IMAGINATION

IMAGINATION

Fantasy, abandoned by reason, produces impossible monsters; united with it, she is the mother of the arts and the origin of marvels.

~ Francisco de Goya

Imagination grows by exercise, and contrary to common belief, is more powerful in the mature than in the young.

~ W. Somerset Maugham

A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.

~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

To imagine is everything, to know is nothing at all.

~ Anatole France

Everything you can imagine is real.

~ Picasso



INDIVIDUALITY

Certain defects are necessary for the existence of individuality.

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Whoso would ever be a man, must be a nonconformist.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

A man who does not think for himself does not think at all.

~ Oscar Wilde

The cult of individuality and personality, which promotes painters and poets only to *promote* itself, is really a business. The greater the 'genius' of the personage, the greater the profit.

~ George Grosz

INNOVATION



Pieter Mondriaan

INNOVATION

Knowledge of the past and of the places of the earth is the ornament and food of the mind of man.

~ Leonardo DaVinci

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Without tradition, art is a flock of sheep without a shepherd.
Without innovation, it is a corpse.

~ Winston Churchill

I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.

~ Pablo Picasso

But an innovation, to grow organically from within, has to be based on an intact tradition.

~ Yo-Yo Ma



LIFE & DEATH

LIFE & DEATH

Death may be the greatest of all human blessings.

~ Socrates

While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.

•

Our life is made by the death of others.

~Leonardo da Vinci

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

~ Mark Twain

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

LOVE



LOVE

Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies.

~ Aristotle

Love is a canvas furnished by nature and embroidered by imagination.

~ Voltaire

Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well.

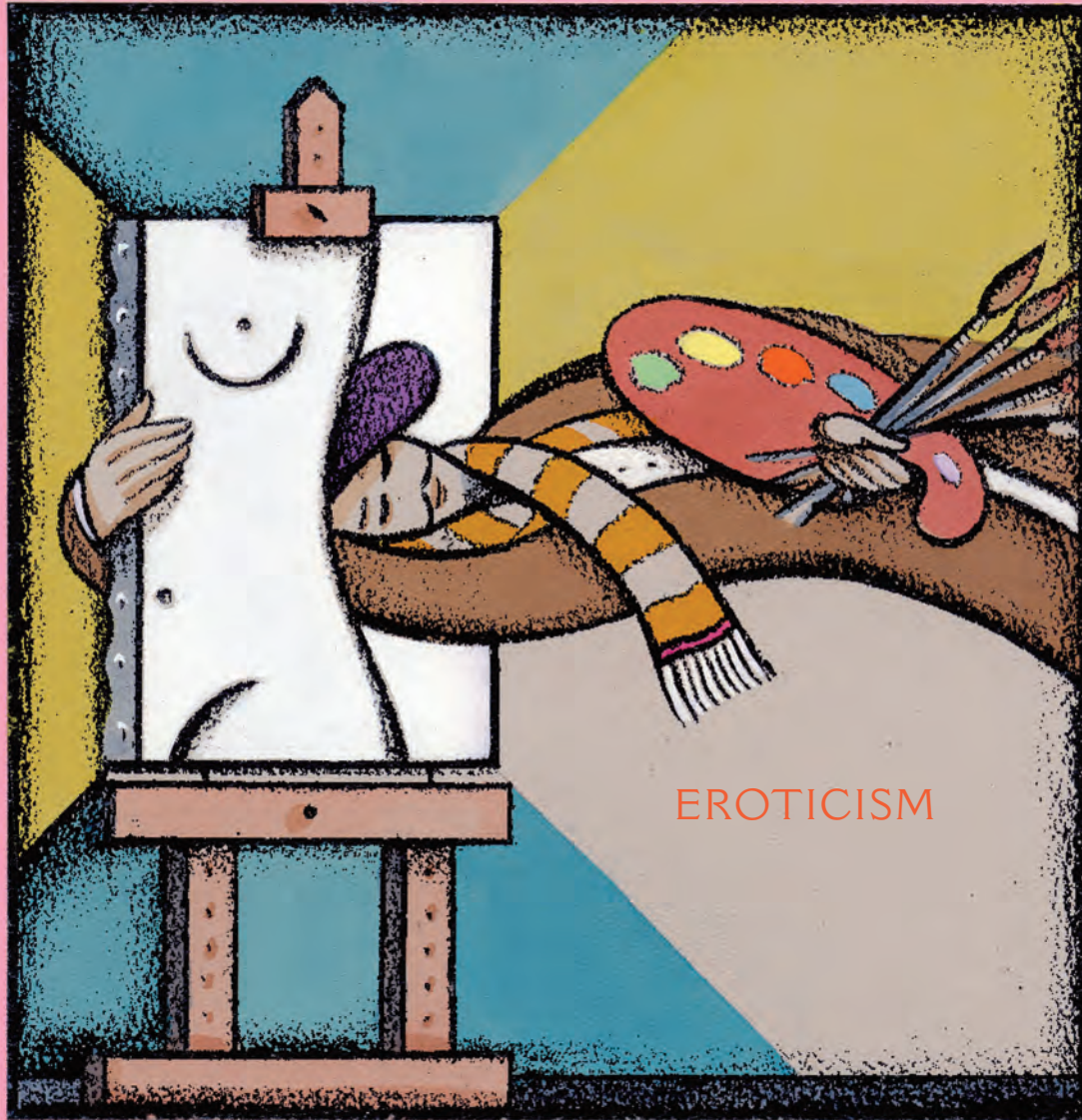
~ Vincent Van Gogh

You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

~ James A. Baldwin



EROTICISM

EROTICISM

All art is erotic.

~ Gustav Klimt

Art is not chaste. Those ill prepared should be allowed no contact with art. Art is dangerous. If it is chaste, it is not art.

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Art is not the application of a canon of beauty but what the instinct and the brain can conceive beyond any canon. When we love a woman we don't start measuring her limbs.

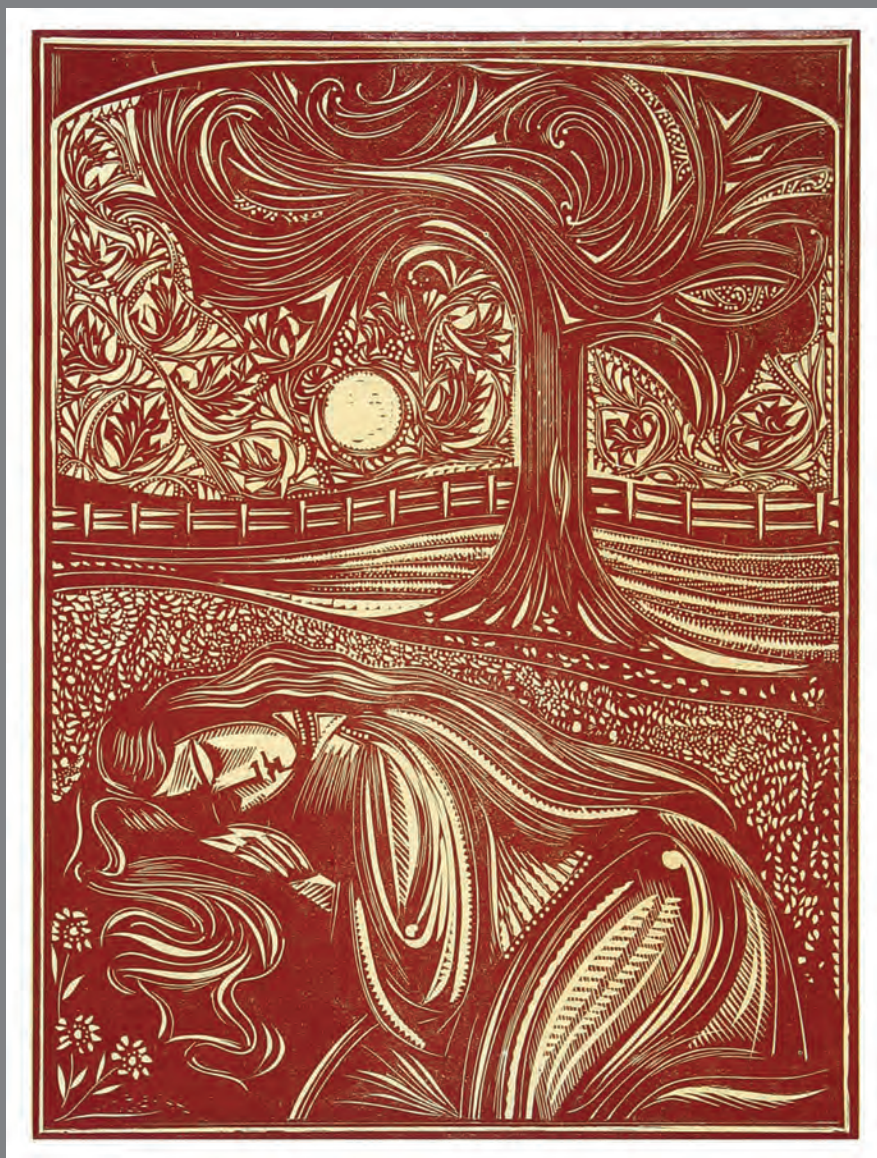
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To draw you must close your eyes and sing.

~ Pablo Picasso

The difference between eroticism and pornography is one of art.

~Andre Salvet



MYSTERY

MYSTERY

Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves.

~ Henry David Thoreau

The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.

~ Oscar Wilde

One may say the eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility.

~ Albert Einstein

Not all those who wander are lost.

~ J. R. R. Tolkien

The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery.

~ Francis Bacon

The hidden harmony is better than the obvious.

~ Pablo Picasso



NEGATIVITY

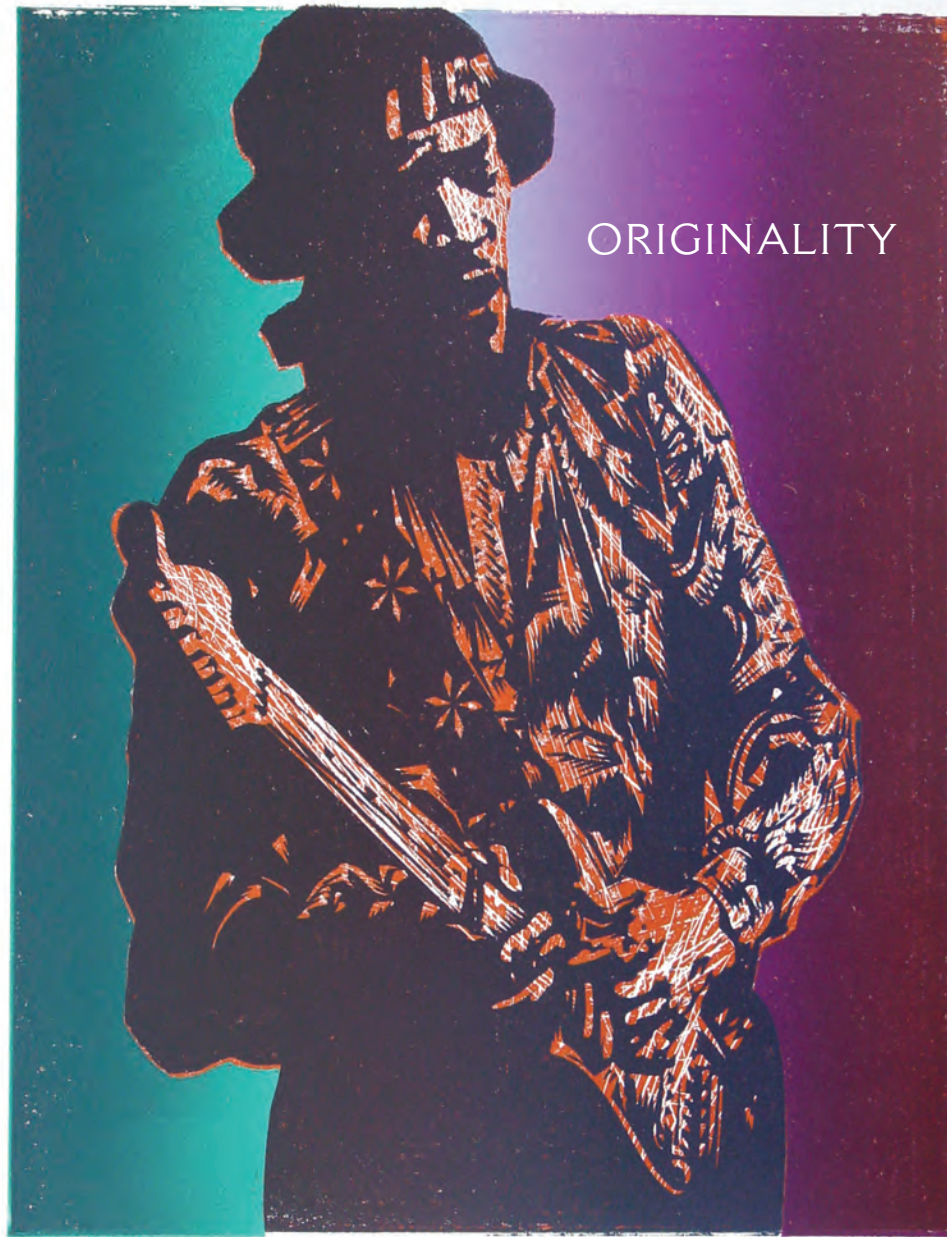
NEGATIVITY

When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion.
~ Abraham Lincoln

Every positive value has its price in negative terms... the genius of Einstein
leads to Hiroshima.

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The people who make art their business are mostly imposters.
~ Pablo Picasso



ORIGINALITY

To be great is to be misunderstood.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Disciples be damned. It's not interesting. It's only the masters that matter. Those who create.

~ Pablo Picasso

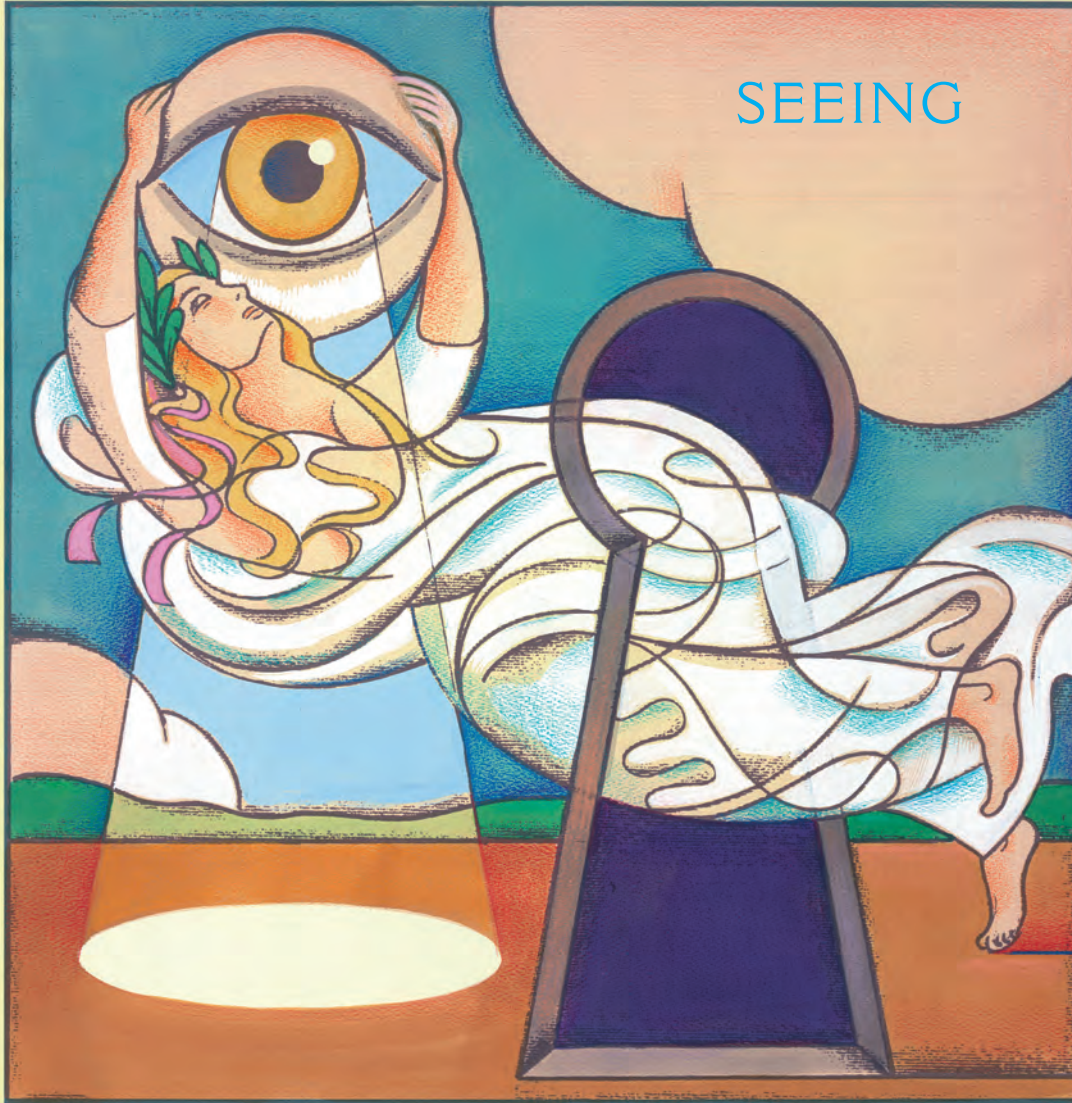
Solitude gives birth to the original in us, to beauty unfamiliar and perilous - to poetry.

~ Thomas Mann

It's weird *not* to be weird.

~ John Lennon

SEEING



SEEING

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.

~ Edgar Degas

Poetry surrounds us everywhere, but putting it on paper is, alas, not so easy as looking at it.

~ Vincent Van Gogh

They ought to put out the eyes of painters as they do goldfinches in order that they can sing better.

•

Painting is a blind man's profession. He paints not what he sees, but what he feels, what he tells himself about what he has seen.

~ Pablo Picasso

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

~ Helen Keller

SLEEP



SLEEP

What hath night to do with sleep?

~ John Milton

God offers to every mind a choice between repose and truth.
take which you please--you can never have both.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sleeping is no mean art: for its sake one must stay awake all day.

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

I had a dream I was awake and I woke up to find myself asleep.

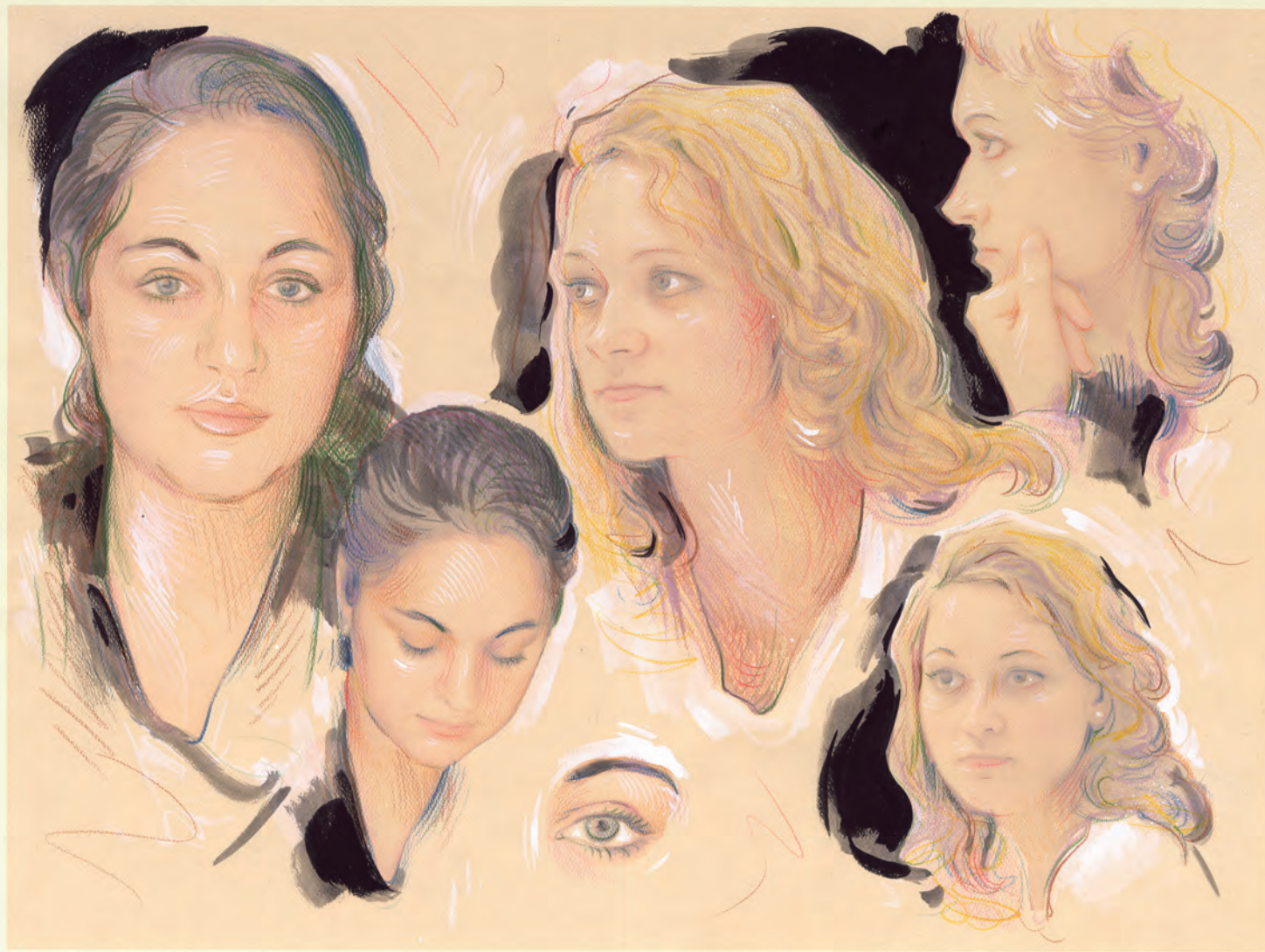
~ Stan Laurel

For sleep, riches and health to be truly enjoyed, they must be interrupted.

~ Jean Paul Sartre

You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and to be vibrantly alive in repose.

~ Indira Gandhi



SPONTANEITY

SPONTANEITY

No art is less spontaneous than mine. What I do is the result of reflection and the study of the great masters.

•

One must do the same subject over again ten times, a hundred times. In art nothing must resemble an accident, not even *movement*.

~ Edgar Degas



STYLE

STYLE

Do not imitate one another's style. If you do, so far as your art is concerned you will be called a grandson, rather than the son of Nature.

~ Leonardo da Vinci

One forges one's style on the terrible anvil of daily deadlines.

~ Émile Zola

God is really only another artist. He invented the giraffe, the elephant and the cat. He has no real style, He just goes on trying other things.

~ Pablo Picasso

Self-plagiarism is style.

~ Alfred Hitchcock

Don't settle for style. Succeed in substance.

~ Wynton Marsalis



SUCCESS & FAILURE

SUCCESS & FAILURE

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure.

~ Thomas A. Edison

Success and failure are equally disastrous.

~ Tennessee Williams

Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement.

~ C. S. Lewis

Success is dangerous. One begins to copy oneself, and to copy oneself is more dangerous than to copy others. It leads to sterility.

~ Pablo Picasso

Some speak of the future,
My love she speaks softly,
She knows there's no success like failure
And that failure's no success at all.

~ Bob Dylan



TECHNIQUE

TECHNIQUE

The more technique you have, the less you have to worry about it. The more technique there is, the less there is.

~ Picasso

TRUTH



TRUTH

Experience has shown, and a true philosophy will always show, that a vast, perhaps the larger portion of the truth arises from the seemingly irrelevant.
~ Edgar Allan Poe

In painting you must give the idea of the true by means of the false.
~ Edgar Degas

Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.
~ Oscar Wilde

If there were only one truth, you couldn't paint a hundred canvases on the same theme.
~ Pablo Picasso

WISDOM



WISDOM

Wisdom begins in wonder. The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.

~ Socrates

Only when he no longer knows what he is doing does the painter do good things.

~ Edgar Degas

You have learnt something. That always feels at first as if you had lost something.

~ George Bernard Shaw

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.

~ Albert Einstein

Where is all the knowledge we lost with information?

~ T. S. Eliot



YOUTH

YOUTH

It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.

...

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.

...

It takes a long time to become young.

...

Youth has no age.

~ Pablo Picasso



YOUR THOUGHTS