

Access to Beauty

John Churchley

Being human is more than ordinary
Ordinary day to day getting by
Ordinary work
Ordinary play
Ordinary go to bed and get up to start all over again

Being human is accessing the extraordinary
Accessing the power to transform,
To change,
To build,
To create,
To imagine,
To inspire,
To feel.

Being human is accessing experiences of life
Of things sounds and sights
Of people

Being human is accessing beauty.

Do you have access to beauty?
Do you have access to it in depth?
To really see and hear and feel beauty
In its infinite complexities
subtlety in shape
nuance in tone
historical roots and cultural awareness
to access beauty from before and beyond
rhythm and form
and harmony and texture and feeling
and contrast and conflict and resolution
that can build to a cathartic ovation or tears

Do you have access to beauty?
Do you have access to the skills that can transform
Another person in a gallery
1000 people in a theatre
1,000,000 people on YouTube
Using your voice
By singing

By telling a story
By moving your body
By extending that voice and body
With a musical instrument,
A paint brush,
A pen,
A chisel,
A computer mouse,
A stage.

Can you catch the eye of one observer with a painting
Or sell ten million cans of pop with a logo
Or make someone cry with a story
Or an audience clap and cheer with a song
Because it really doesn't matter how big you go
How famous or how rich or how viral.
Access to beauty is the most important gift you'll ever give
Or get.

Access to beauty is open to you
It's free and it's there
It's only limited by the time and discipline you invest
And your openness to those that teach you
To observe
To listen
To reflect
They teach you to notice the little things
And recognize how the little things together make big things
They teach you to access the beauty that's all around you, but you just didn't notice
And to create beauty so that others can access it
And they will notice.