

How Do We Creatively Advance the Kingdom of God?

The role of the arts today? In part the arts are thermometer as to the state of health of the society!! A Scary thought.

It's - communication, confronting, thought provoking, empowering, uplifting, indulgent, extravagant, fashion, the transcendent, the decorative, the stylised, the abstract, the realistic, there is no end to the list.

Through the middle-ages perhaps some of the most highly developed art forms ever created are the art of the stained glass windows for cathedrals, the tapestries and magnificent mosaics that transported peoples hearts and minds and spirits and were the major cultural and religious expressions of the day - they even continue to awe inspire nearly a millennium later.

Not all art has to have such lofty aspirations, though, the folk art of the European peasants *connects* just as effectively.

Tolstoy said:

“Every work of art causes the receiver to enter into a certain kind of relationship both with him who produced, or is producing, the art, and with all those who, simultaneously, previously, or subsequently, receive the same artistic impression”.

Albert Einstein stated:

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all art and science. He, to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead, his eyes are closed.

C.S. Lewis would call the *mysterious* the *numinous*, the spiritual we all long for as humans.

Chris Tiller's large steel sculpture amply illustrates the point. It is rich in symbolism.

The large cog can be viewed as a symbol of God, the smaller cog symbolic of humanity, you can see the two are similar, one in the image of the other, the two should obviously be meshed and move together.

The arc of curved steel that the smaller cog is attached to becomes the constant path our lives generally take - in avoidance of that “connecting”.

How do we bridge the gap? This is all about relationship – and relationship is a two way street!

We know God has created this world, and us and through His Son's sacrifice a redemptive path back to eternal life with Him has been established, how then do we respond to that Good News?

We *can* arise out of out of our “dysfunction” and acknowledge that Good News.

Through our creativity we *can* creatively express our lives more fully, whether by turning our work and home and workplace into worship and a place of worship or be it through, works on walls, 3 dimensional works, in music and in the spoken word is response - relationship - expressions of that love that the created (us) has for the Creator - but it is actually a spiritual act.

Works created as a result of that relational environment will have an honesty and a sincerity - and that is refreshing to see in the world today.

Be responsive to God’s promptings and run with His creativity as we make manifest visions and dreams and celebrate *this* abundant life.