



Art

is an Act of Spirituality



All Art is a gift of the Holy Spirit. When this light shines through the mind of a musician, it manifests itself in beautiful harmonies. Again, shining through the mind of a poet, it is seen in fine poetry and poetic prose. When the Light of the Sun of Truth inspires the mind of a painter, he produces marvelous pictures. These gifts are fulfilling their highest purpose when showing forth the praise of God.

Abdu'l-Bahá

I myself do
nothing. The
Holy Spirit
accomplishes all
through me.



William Blake



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BONNIE WILDER

**...arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being,
and are conducive to its exaltation. ~ Bahá'u'lláh**



...theatre artists are not just entertainers: they are shamans, who serve as intermediaries between spiritual realities and audiences.

Hannah Sachs



Colleen
Grace
Clabby

As divine spiritual human beings and writers, we are always traveling in our hearts and minds, guided by our writing muse. Every thought has energy, every breath carries memory. And every word that we write becomes a testament to our soul's journey.

Writing is more than just words on a page. It represents a profound connection with our deepest self, our experiences, and the surrounding universe.



Henry
Ward
Beecher

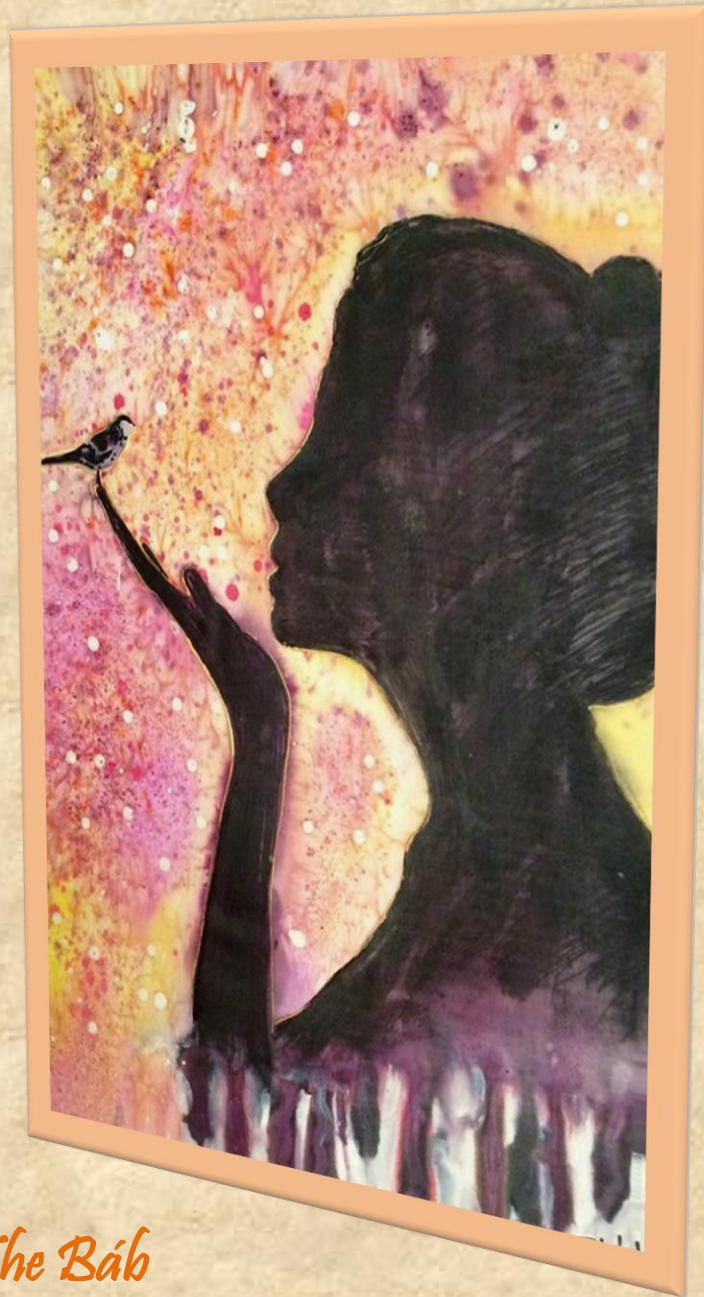
Every artist dips his brush in his own soul and paints his soul into his pictures.



**Art is when you hear a knocking from
your soul — and you answer.**

Terri Guillemets

**Treasures lie
hidden beneath
the throne of
God; the key to
those treasures is
the tongue of
poets.**



The Báb



Every child has known God.
Not the God of names,
Not the God of don'ts,
Not the God who ever does anything weird,
But the God who knows only four words
and keeps repeating them, saying,
*"Come dance with me,
come dance."*

Hafiz

The function of language is to portray the mysteries and secrets of human hearts. The heart is like a box, and language the key. Only by using the key can we open the box and observe the gems it contains.



'Abdu'l-Bahá



Bach gave us God's Word.

Mozart gave us God's Laughter.

Beethoven gave us God's fire.

God gave us music that we might pray without words.

Sign outside an old opera house



**Dance is prayer —
when you don't
have the words to
say, simply dance,
and your heart will
express the things
that words cannot.**

La'Toya Princess Jackson



Life
beats
down
and
crushes
the soul
and art
reminds
you that
you
have
one.

*Stella
Adler*

Prayer is when you talk to God. Meditation is when you're listening. Playing the piano allows you to do both at the same time.

- Kelsey Grammer





I learned that the real creator was my inner Self,...That desire to do something is God inside talking through us.

Michele Shea



Human reasoning is born from the divine Logos, which furnishes each man with the passageway both of life and of nourishment.

The divine Logos is present in all the arts, ever teaching men what they must do to obtain good results. For it is not man, but God, who discovered the arts.

Epicharmus of Syracuse

We should write because humans
are spiritual beings
and writing is a powerful form
of prayer and meditation.



Julia Cameron



The light which these souls [the sincere and faithful beings who have passed into the next realm] radiate is responsible for the progress of the world and the advancement of its people. They are like unto leaven which leaveneth the world of being and constitute the animating force through which the arts and wonders of the world are made manifest.

Bahá'u'lláh

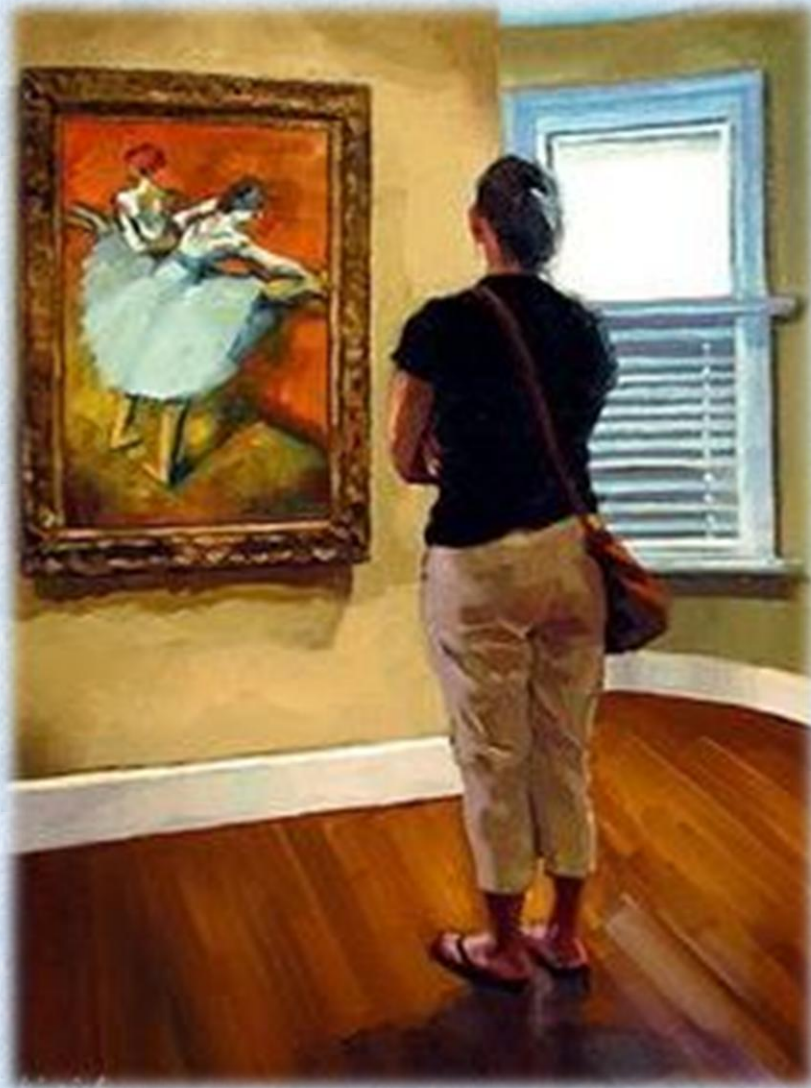



When music of this world is blended with that of the Kingdom, men's hearts will be so enraptured that their spirits will soar high with ecstasy.

'Abdu'l-Bahá'

You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul.

George Bernard Shaw



A silhouette of a person with long hair tied back, sitting and writing on a notepad with a pen. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The person is on the left side of the frame, and the text is on the right.

God gives me
the words,
and I put
them on
paper.

Jan Phillips



*Thomas
Carlyle*

Music is well said to be the speech of angels; in fact, nothing among the utterances allowed to man is felt to be so divine. It brings us near to the infinite.



[B]oth natural and artistic beauty is capable of evoking what is called the sense of transcendence, or the presence of some deeper (divine) principles in the world.

O. Bychkov



Art and beauty are immediately pleasing...the rules and principles of art are beyond us or transcend us: possibly indicating the presence of a higher principle (e.g., the divine) in the universe. The arts are used for these purposes by most religious traditions...

O. Bychkov



The talents of an artist, small or great, are God-given. They've nothing to do with the private person; they're nothing to be proud of. They're just a sacred trust...Having been given, I must give. Man shall not live by bread alone, and what the farmer does I must do. I must feed the people—with my songs.

Paul Robeson



*Julia
Cameron*

**Our creative dreams and yearnings come from a divine source.
As we move toward our dreams, we move toward divinity.**



**Theatre is my
temple and my
religion and my act
of faith. Strangers
sit in a room
together and
believe together.**

Harvey Fierstein



There is nothing in the
world so much like
prayer as music is.



William P. Merrill



Encourage the children from their earliest years to master every kind of learning, and make them eager to become skilled in every art—the aim being that through the favouring grace of God, the heart of each one may become even as a mirror disclosing the secrets of the universe, penetrating the innermost reality of all things . . .

'Abdu'l-Bahá



It is through you, actors, that the forces which are understood by millions and that tell of everything that is beautiful on earth, find expression. The forces which reveal to people the happiness of living in a widened consciousness and in the joy of creative work for the whole world. You, the actors of a theatre, which is one of the centres of human culture, will never be understood by the people if you are unable to reflect the spiritual needs of your time, the now in which you are living.

Konstantin Stanislavski



Straightway the ideas flow in upon me, directly from God.

Johannes Brahms



Joseph
Joubert

Imagination is the eye of the soul.

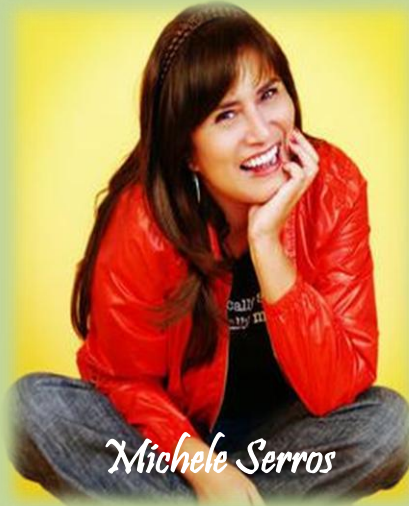


We have made music a ladder by which souls may ascend to the realm on high.

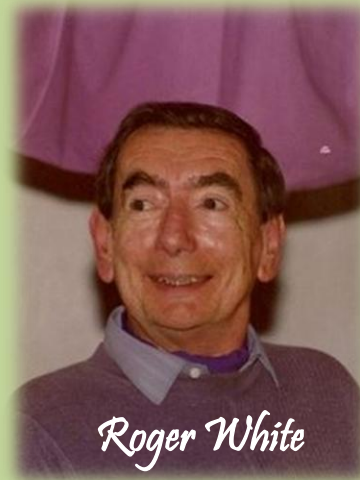
Bahá'u'lláh



Langston Hughes



Michele Serros



Roger White



Maya Angelou

The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;
And as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.

William Shakespeare



**Creativity
requires faith.**

**Faith requires
that we
relinquish control.**

Julia Cameron

Art washes
away from
the soul the
dust of
everyday
life.



Pablo Picasso



Gandhi

**All true art must help the soul to realize its inner self...
true art must be evidence of the happiness,
contentment, and purity of its authors.**



...an appreciation of beauty is one of the spiritual forces that lifts us to higher realms of existence. To strengthen this power of attraction it is beneficial for the friends to be exposed to various forms of art.

The Bahá'í International Teaching Centre



**Every creative process demands great concentration
of the artist's spiritual forces.**

Konstantin Stanislavski



Dance comes through the
eyes, then the mind



and into the heart.

Bill T. Jones



Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better.

André Gide

Music gives a soul to the universe,
wings to the mind, flight to the
imagination, and life to everything.



Music is an
outburst
of the soul



Plato



*Alexander
Pope*

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart;
To make mankind, in conscious virtue bold,
Live o'er each scene, and be what they behold:
For this the Tragic Muse first trod the stage.



Dance is imagination brought to life! Dance is prayer. Dance is meditation. Dance is walking through the clouds, flying among the stars, gliding on the moon and experiencing the pure bliss of heaven on earth.

~ La'Toya Princess Jackson



True painting is only the image of the perfection of God.

~Michelangelo

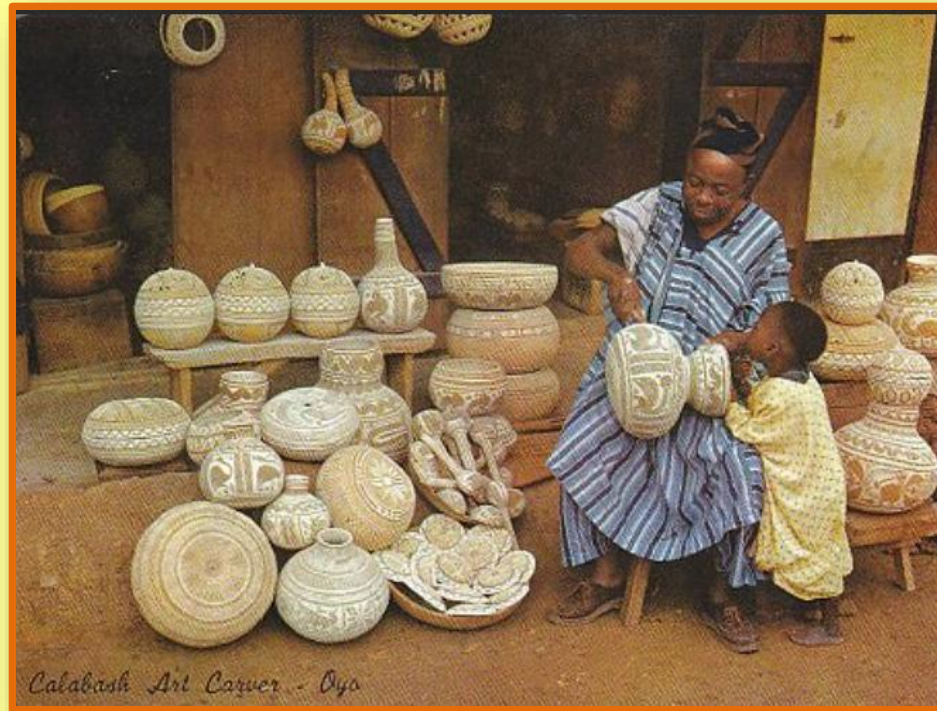
Art, as far as it is able, follows nature,
as a pupil imitates its master;



thus your art must be, as it were, God's grandchild.

Dante Alighieri

When anyone
occupieth
himself in a
craft or trade,
such
occupation
itself is
regarded in the
estimation of
God as an act of
worship.



Bahá'u'lláh



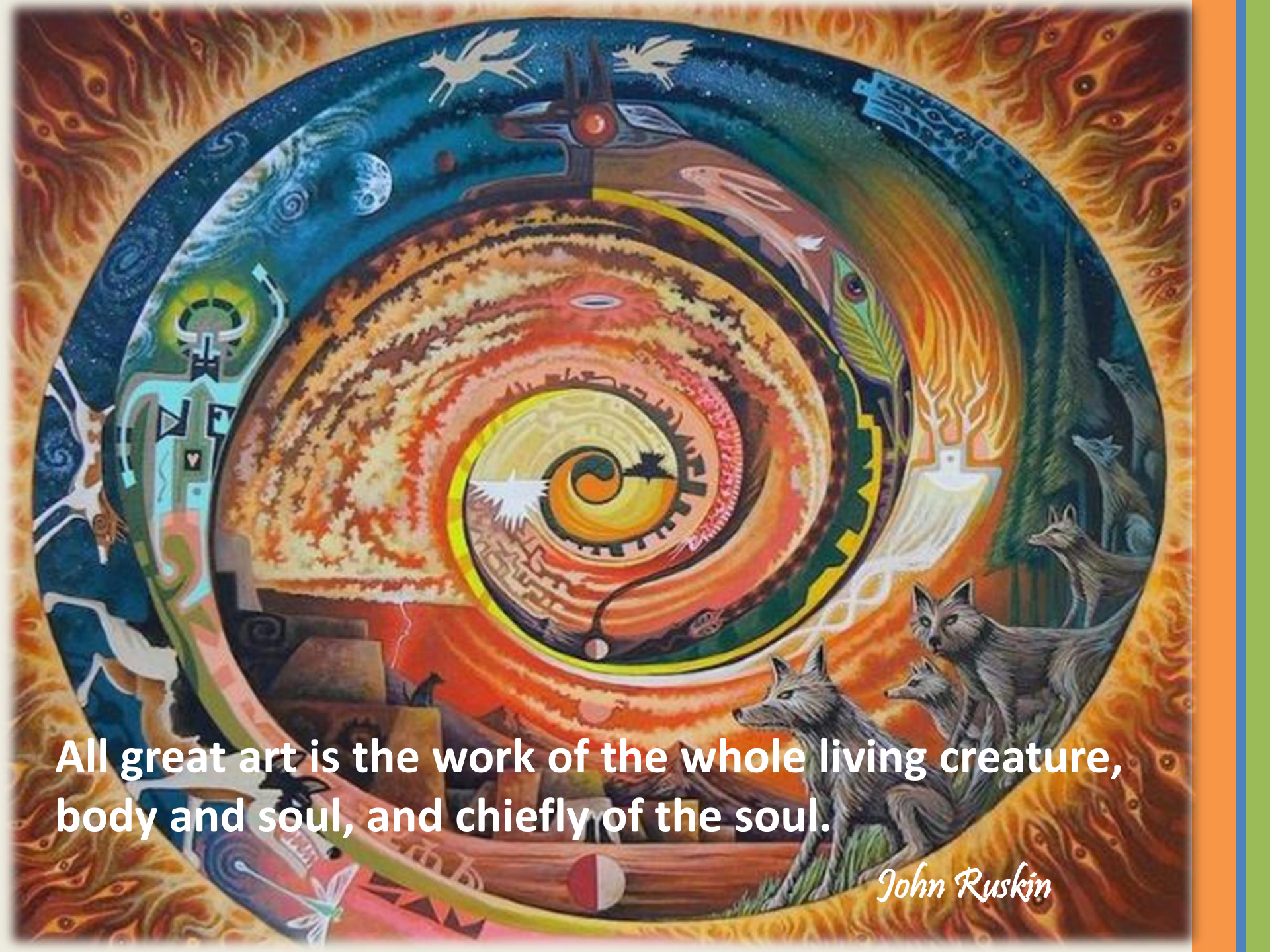
It is the immediate influence of the Holy Spirit that causes words such as these (lines from Hafiz) to stream from the tongue of poets, the significance of which they themselves are oftentimes unable to apprehend.

~ The Báb ~



...when thy fingers grasp the paintbrush, it is as if thou wert at prayer in the Temple.

~ 'Abdu'l-Bahá ~



All great art is the work of the whole living creature,
body and soul, and chiefly of the soul.

John Ruskin



*Kate
Santich*

If you are lucky and reverent, and hush for a moment the voices of doubt in your head, sometimes God will whisper in your ear.



SING!

**Not to
perform—
just to
worship.**

Eric Dozier

The music of this opera [Madame Butterfly] was dictated to me by God; I was merely instrumental in putting it on paper and communicating it to the public.



Puccini



*Albert
Einstein*

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.



**A wondrous melody is wings for the spirit,
and maketh the soul to tremble for joy.**

Abdu'l-Bahá

Prayer is
simply a
conversation
with God...
dance
provides an
internal
dialogue that
is sacred
within your
heart, soul
and spirit—
giving you a
direct line to
the source.

La'Toya Princess Jackson



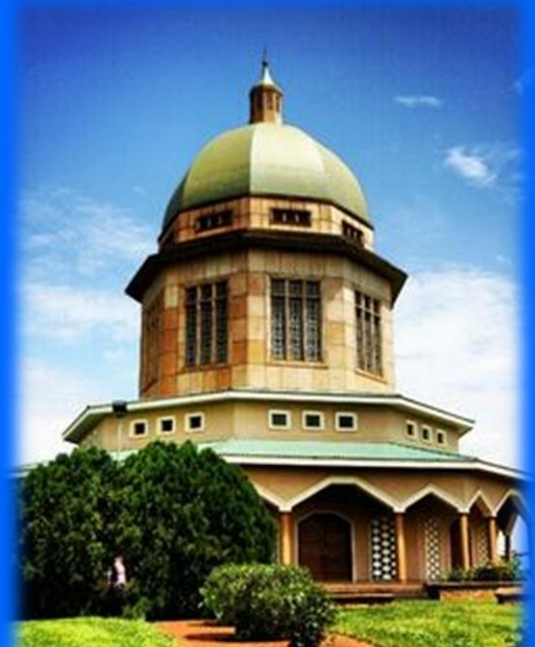
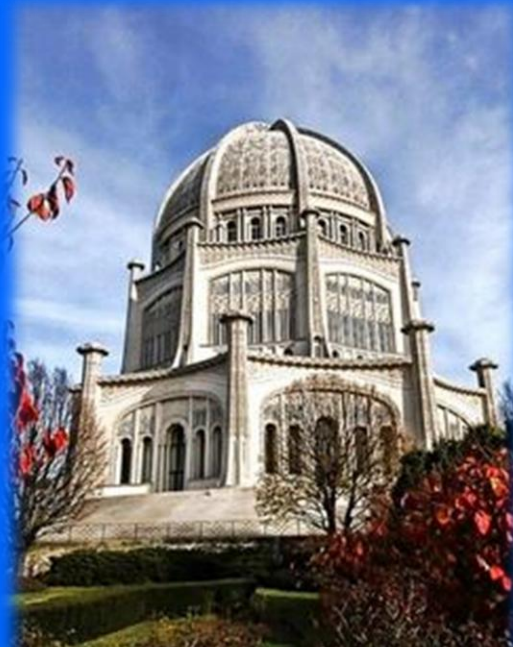
The Theatre is magic, and blessed are those who make that magic. ~ *Author Unknown*



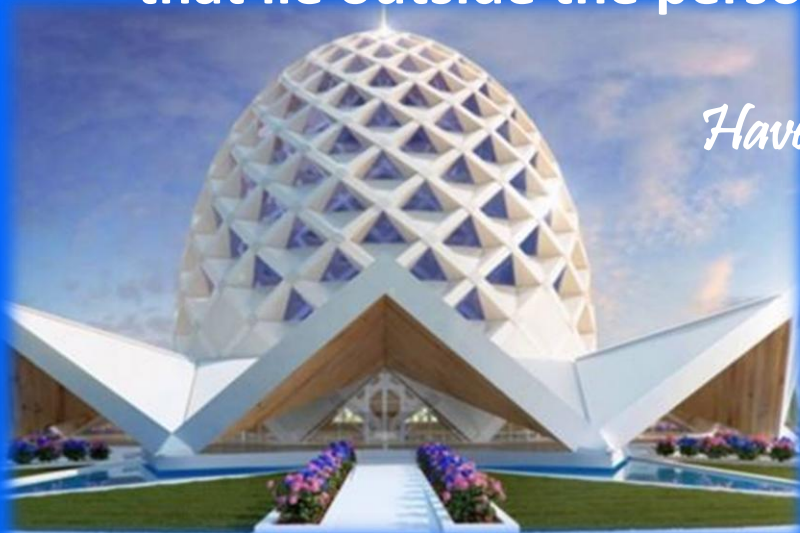


Dance is the hidden language of the soul.

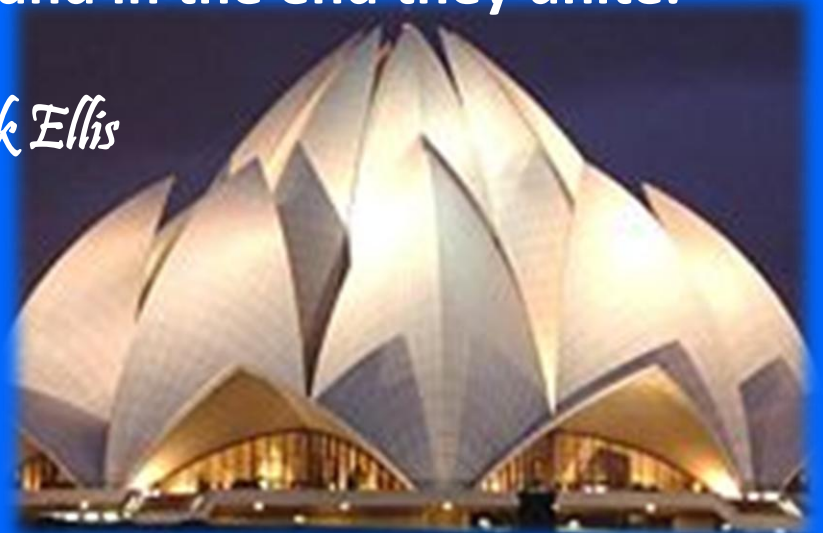
Martha Graham



The art of building, or architecture, is the beginning of all the arts that lie outside the person; and in the end they unite.



Havelock Ellis



When we open ourselves to our creativity,
we open ourselves to the Creator's creativity
within us and our lives.



Julia Cameron





The poet is the priest of the invisible.

Wallace Stevens

Don't only practice your art, but force your way into its secrets, for it and knowledge can raise men to the divine.



Ludwig Von Beethoven



First, one seeks to become an artist by training the hand. Then one finds it is the eye that needs improving. Later one learns it is the mind that wants developing, only to find that the ultimate quest of the artist is in the spirit.

Larry Brullo



Endeavor your utmost to compose beautiful poems to be chanted with heavenly music; thus may their beauty affect the minds and impress the hearts of those who listen.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

I paint not by sight but by faith.
Faith gives you sight.



Amos Ferguson



Art deals with things forever incapable of definition that belong to love, beauty, joy and worship. The shapes, powers and glory of which are ever building, unbuilding and rebuilding in each man's soul and in the soul of the whole world.

Plotinus



[I]n this wonderful new age, art is worship. The more thou strivest to perfect it, the closer wilt thou come to God.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

That is beautiful
which is produced
by the inner need,
which springs from
the soul.

Wassily Kandinsky



**Music,
sung or played,
Is spiritual food
for soul and heart.**

'Abdu'l-Bahá





**Practicing an art,
no matter how
well or how
badly, is a way to
make your soul
grow, for
heaven's sake.**

Kurt Vonnegut

Creativity is God's gift to us.



Using our creativity is our gift back to God.

Julia Cameron



*Joseph
Chilton
Pearce*

**We must accept that this creative pulse within us
is God's creative pulse itself.**



**Holy Creator,
thank you for artists:
visual, verbal,
musical, kinesthetic,
spiritual . . .**

**Within their creative process
may we recognize
the divine in all creation
and be moved to awe
and wonder and worship.**

Chris Glaser



Art

is an Act of Spirituality