



SELECTED QUOTES ON
THE CREATIVE PROCESS
Compiled by Debbie Whittle



Art will remain the most astonishing activity of mankind born out of struggle between wisdom and madness, between dream and reality in our mind.

~MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ

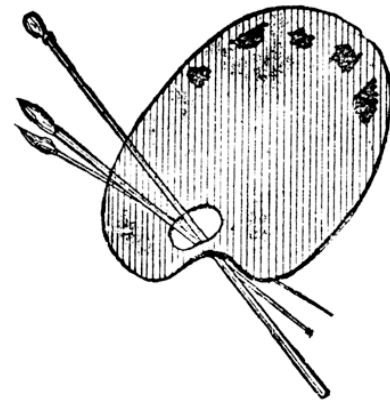
The act of creation is not a choice for the artist. It's as if one must paint, write, sing, dance, compose...or burst.

~Debbie Whittle

During the act of creation the "work" moves through the artist. The work is bigger than the artist. The job of the artist is to listen and be the vessel through which this work is being created. It is a very personal soul-process. But once the work is complete it no longer belongs to the artist. It is no longer about his or her soul, it is about the soul of the one viewing or participating in the art. ~Debbie Whittle

A great artist... must be shaken by the naked truths that will not be comforted. This divine discontent, this disequilibrium, this state of inner tension is the source of artistic energy.

~Goethe



The artist acts as midwife... guiding the creation into form and through the very act of creating, simultaneously gives birth to him or her SELF.

~Debbie Whittle

In the end, I feel that one has to have a bit of neurosis to go on being an artist. A balanced human seldom produces art. It's that imbalance which impels us... The artist lives with anxiety.

~Beverly Pepper

Painting isn't an aesthetic operation; it's a form of magic designed as a mediator between this strange, hostile world and us, a way of seizing the power by giving form to our terrors as well as our desires. ~**Pablo Picasso**

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift. ~**Albert Einstein**

Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual. ~**Arthur Koestler**

The things we fear most in organizations ~ fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances ~ are the primary sources of creativity. ~**Margaret J. Wheatley**



Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted. ~**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

You need chaos in your soul to give birth to a dancing star. ~**Nietzsche**

There's a fine line between genius and insanity. I have erased this line. ~**Oscar Levant**

Creation is the ultimate resistance, the ultimate refusal to accept things as they are. For it is in creation that we encounter Mystery... ~**Starhawk**

One creates from nothing. If you try to create from something you're just changing something. So in order to create something you first have to be able to create nothing. ~**Werner Erhard**

If I don't put effort toward creating what I want, I have to put effort toward coping with what I get. ~**Unknown**

The most visible creators are those artists whose medium is life itself. The ones who express the inexpressible - without brush, hammer, clay, or guitar. They neither paint nor sculpt. Their medium is simply being. Whatever their presence touches has increased life. They see, but don't have to draw...

Because they are the artists of being alive. ~**J Stone**

Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures. ~**Henry Ward Beecher**

Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one. ~**Stella Adler**

Painting is just another way of keeping a diary. ~**Pablo Picasso**

Art is the stored honey of the human soul, gathered on wings of misery and travail. ~**Theodore Dreiser, Life, Art, and America, 1917**

Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better. ~**André Gide**

What art offers is space - a certain breathing room for the spirit. ~**John Updike**

I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for. ~**Georgia O'Keefe**

All great art comes from a sense of outrage. ~**Glenn Close**

What garlic is to salad, insanity is to art. ~**Augustus Saint-Gaudens**

Art is the struggle to understand. ~**Audrey Foris**

Art is spirituality in drag. ~**Jennifer Yane**

Art is not a thing; it is a way. ~**Elbert Hubbard**





For the mystic what is how. For the craftsman how is what. For the artist what and how are one. ~**William McElcheran**

I am for an art that is political-eretical-mystical, that does something other than sit on its ass in a museum. ~**Claes Oldenburg**

The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance. ~**Aristotle**

Art is when you hear a knocking from your soul - and you answer. ~**Star Richés**

Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable. ~**George Bernard Shaw**

Lying in bed would be an altogether perfect and supreme experience if only one had a colored pencil long enough to draw on the ceiling. ~**G.K. Chesterton**

The artist gazes upon a reality and creates his own impression. The viewer gazes upon the impression and creates his own reality. ~**Robert Brault, www.robertbrault.com**

