

Musings from the Editor's Desk

(Editorial from Beads & Jewelry Newsletter #4)

In light of how horridly NOT on time or consistent I am with this newsletter, I feel I should devote this editorial to the subject of time-management. Heh... but maybe next time.

So... today's subject: How much gray area is between catering to the money masses and being so stubborn as to only create precisely what one wants?

Is this a hobby for me? No.

Do I know that I'd have more confirmed sales if I did things differently? Yes.

What is stopping me from doing that, then?

Ah... well, let me tell you.

I have a co-worker (in my day job) who continually urges me to "go bigger", by which he means I should hire people to duplicate my designs and then I'd have more inventory to sell.

I'm guessing part of the reason I can't/won't do that is that I'm so selfish, stubborn, and ego-centric I refuse to "let go". I don't want other people making my art. Wow! Okay, so what I'm telling myself is that my art is more important to me than money. Hmph! I find that hard to believe in light of the fact that I am constantly stressed about money, there never seems to be enough, and as the kids get older and more expensive I am on a continual downward spiral of denial and poverty.

So why can't I do it? Why can't I do some things with my art that will most likely be more profitable?

Am I such an idealist that I keep hoping someday... if I keep it up... I'll be "discovered"? Or, if that sort of thing is just too hard to come by, then at least I'd be able to make a living at my art?

I think that's part of it... but I am also thinking that a larger part of it has to do with sanity.

When I was a writer, we used to snicker at those who when asked, "Why do you write?" would respond with "Because I can't NOT write". Ha! It seemed so lame. But OMG... there IS some truth to it. Creativity is good for the soul. VERY good.

I think stifling a creative outlet is like amputation.

And so... I think that is more of the reason of why I sacrifice a higher income in exchange for jewelry that takes longer to make, has more effort involved, and is harder to sell because it's so off-the-wall. Because I need to stay sane. I need to be creative.

When I was younger, before I was a writer, before I was a photographer... I was a musician. And back then, people who had an artistic bent were more fringy. I mean, you could pretty much spot us, just by how we looked.

Well, I am happy to say that that misconception has flown out the window. When I click on pictures of lampwork or Polyclay artists now, I'm like... "Holy Heck, she's a normal middle America mom with 3 kids, a mortgage, a white-picket fence, etc." I'm tickled, just tickled to death to see so many women (and men too) embracing their creativity. Getting in touch with parts of their soul that may have previously been hidden. Tapping hidden reserves of imagination and inspiration.

That's GOT to be good for the soul!

So the next time you (or I) feel even a twinge of guilt about putting art before money, consider the following wise (IMO) quotes:

Repetition is the death of art.

Robin Green

To freely bloom - that is my definition of success.

Gerry Spence

He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.

Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

The easiest way for your children to learn about money is for you not to have any.

Katharine Whitehorn

The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.

Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value.

Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all.

Anna Quindlen

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

Bill Cosby (1937 -)

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.

Bob Dylan (1941 -)

There is only one success - to be able to spend your life in your own way.

Christopher Morley (1890 - 1957)

I owe my success to having listened respectfully to the very best advice, and then going away and doing the exact opposite.

G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that 'achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others, and that's nice, too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success.'

Helen Hayes (1900 - 1993)

If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother and hope your guardian genius.

Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719)

Art is the desire of a man to express himself, to record the reactions of his personality to the world he lives in.

Amy Lowell (1874 - 1925)

Works of art, in my opinion, are the only objects in the material universe to possess internal order, and that is why, though I don't believe that only art matters, I do believe in Art for Art's sake.

E. M. Forster (1879 - 1970)

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.

Joseph Chilton Pearce

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

Anais Nin (1903 - 1977)

Laura

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