

Art Autobiography

Recall:

“Arts and Craps” This is the term I recall my mother using from a very young age. What this actually referred to was the bin of materials she would keep for projects and crafts: egg cartons, tubes, plastic containers, broken plates, etc. My mom would never have admitted it but she was the precipitous of my long love of art and creating things. She always helped me to take my ideas to fruition, whether learning to sew, buying plaster of paris or going into the woods for sticks, leaves and rocks. These projects, school or just for fun, were always worthy of her time and attention. As well my father, the engineer that he is, would help with planning and design as my ideas grew in size and complication. He too, has had a great influence on how I approach my “art” by adding a thoughtful more methodical approach to problem solving.

Another strong influence in my perspective of art was my cousin Gail. Gail is 10 years my senior and has a PhD in historical art and fashion. She would take me into NYC to work with her at the MET where she shared her love of fabrics, embroidery and fabrication of historical garments. As well as the rest of the museum. She taught me to look at the art, understand the messages in the early works and appreciate the complexity of the art.

My love of all types of art and craft have followed me into adulthood. During my college years I always took art classes, even though I was a Science major. Today I still search out art classes. I'm not drawn to them as to become a working artist but to learn the processes and appreciate the medium more.

This has led me to focus in on a few specific art fields. Most recently I was in the (side) business of refurbishing furniture. It's such a satisfying feeling to take a sad old abused piece of furniture, strip it, repair and restore it to its new or original beauty. I have also made jewelry and done metal work. The joke in the house is "what's mom's new project?"

Reflect:

Upon reflection of my past art experiences there are a few common threads. First, my family plays a large role in my love of art, experiencing it and doing it. Each scenario above displays interactions with someone I love and who was willing to show and express to me their own love of art in a nonjudgmental way.

My experience in art has been wonderfully successful in 2 ways, for a non-art major. I have been able to express my ideas in both 3 dimensional and 2 dimensional mediums. I love to draw, sketch and doodle additionally I have sold my jewelry and furniture. Each of these have allowed me to express myself artistically but mostly they have acted as a type of therapy.

My last evidence of success is that my daughter has grasped onto craft and art. It's not unusual for her to sit and create art whether painting, drawing or "arts and craps".

Connect:

Art to me is the willingness to express your thoughts, ideas and emotions in whatever medium is most appealing to you. It's an outward release of thoughts and ideas. Additionally, for me art is also the process of learning a skill, making it your own and using it to express yourself.