

Art Autobiography

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My earliest memories of Art that includes Fine Art and Performing Arts Are growing up in a house with art books and classical music readily available. I would often open up my mother's art books to just look at the pictures not really knowing any difference between the style of art although mostly is representational and a lot of the Old Masters. My mother would often play classical music and opera on the radio, and very often we would watch *Great Performances* on PBS.

In elementary school, we would often have trips to a young people's concert so we are exposed to classical music in elementary school. Many of the concerts were at a venue that had beautiful Art Deco decorations on the walls and ceilings. I suppose most of my early memories of art are as an audience member not so much as a creator.

In terms of creating art during my elementary school years, I'd really call it more of just basic art projects in art class: visual art and some Ceramics, or craft-type activities. My elementary school did have an active music department with music classes in elementary school and in fifth grade I think it's when we picked instruments I had started out with violin but when we moved up to Middle School they music director wanted me to switch to viola and the instrument I was issued was just too big for me to play adequately so I stopped taking instrumental music in Middle School. I continued on in chorus

in middle school and high school (but I had far too much stage fright to try out for any kind of parts in the musicals that we put on high school, I was content to be a member of the chorus.)

In college I did not take any kind of Studio or performing arts classes, but I did continue with Chorus for two years and I took two art history classes.

Since graduating, I have not visited as many museums as I like, but I have been to the Metropolitan Museum of Art several times the Wadsworth Atheneum the New Britain Museum of Art Museum of Modern Art and a few others. I have also attended concerts and operas.

My experiences as a creator of art are somewhat limited: I am not a performer and I don't consider myself an artist. However I have been able to use electronic tools to create videos and music. As the saying goes, "there's an app for that." I have used Songify to quote create "music" for short videos. I have used the app Animoto to create music videos out of still photos. I have taken digital photos to use in other creative works.

For me the most meaningful art experiences have been seeing a painting (or other work of visual art), hearing a piece of music, watching live performance of a play, that just took me out of my own head because of an emotional reaction to the work of art. I think art can be anything that inspires its audience