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Art Autobiography

I can't recall any overwhelming positive experiences with art until high school. I wasn't a particularly artsy little kid and I rushed through most any project that I was given. However, in 9th grade I took a studio art class for graduation and it was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career. We had a scratch art project and I liked it so much that I went back during study hall every day for almost a month to work on my drawings, but at the end of the year I signed up for an extra science class instead of taking another art class. I didn't really see the importance of another art class even though the first had been very enjoyable. My next experience with art didn't come until my sophomore year of high school when I got into woodworking. I remember the summer I started being excited when I woke up to start working on my next project. I felt like a little kid. I like to focus on practical projects more so than "artsy" ones, but I have made a few decorative pieces. I'm currently finishing a nightstand table with a concrete top that I poured myself. Real life often forces me to drag projects out or go on hiatus, the aforementioned project has taken well over a month now, but I'm glad to have found the hobby overall.

With regard to my earlier art experiences, I enjoyed the decompression that art brings. Almost every child likes to color or mold clay in their hands. That being said I did not seek out art experiences when I was younger, but when I was made to engage in art they were relaxing experiences. I was not one who likes to rush coloring. As far as a negative perception of art, I don't like the perceived exclusivity that I've felt in my experiences with art. People like to classify and put things into neat little boxes. I find myself doing this all the time, but people are rarely one-dimensional characters who can be sorted and dropped into preconceived categories (at least with any level of accuracy). At least from my experience a lot of people seem to typify artsy people into their own category, but as I'm sure most could attest, art is an experience that we all share in some way. Overall, I think that I have been successful in art in my recent years. In my young life I wouldn't describe my experience with art as success, but that I simply accomplished assigned tasks. However, at the current stage of my life I can create work pieces that provide meaning to me, that are visually appealing to others and that I enjoy making and enjoy afterward.

I think art is largely subjective to the practitioner. What's the cliché? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder? That sentiment persists not only from oral tradition, but because it is very true. For me art is any physical expression of thoughts, ideas or feelings. Art can be practical or it can largely be useless, I don't believe it particularly matters where the distinction is placed by any given person. If it brings someone joy and they find passion in it then it is good art for them. For example, I think collecting, displaying or staging art pieces is just as much art as creating the pieces themselves. A friend of mine is very into collecting sports cards. He thinks and treats his sports cards as if they were a Monet. I think most people off the cuff would tell you that sports

cards are not art in the same way as a beautiful oil painting is art, but I disagree. If these sports cards were not art they wouldn't hire talented people to make them pop, shine and catch the ideas of fans. For this reason, I believe my original point is true, if meaning is found within any physical medium that is felt to be an expression of the artist or collector, that is art all the same.