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Art Autobiography

SCED 550

Dr. Arnone

Growing up, my whole life has been surrounded by some type of art form. From music to woodworking, to flower arrangements and painting, my childhood was full of creativity and multiple art shows. I truly enjoyed my childhood due to the fact that it was full of art. We had a family band that would travel and put on shows here and there, this installed my love of music. My grandfather and father could construct almost anything out of wood, this installed my desire to be precise. Then there was my grandmother that could create the most beautiful flower arrangements, this installed my love of nature's beauty. The art forms did not stop there, for there was ceramics, cake decorating, and tole painting. Art was a part of my life and has installed many of my characteristics today.

However, when it comes to art in school, my memory fails me. In elementary, I do recall going to an art class, for I can see the classroom, and I can see the instructor, but there are only a few art pieces that I can recall. Then when I entered middle school and high school, I was involved in band and my schedule would not allow me to be in an art course. I did not have the desire to participate in an art course. Someone that was surrounded by some type of art their entire life, chose not to participate in an art course seems odd. I would call myself a dabbler in the arts. I would try it here and there, but I would not go full throttle in a certain type of art. I just thought that if it was my "thing" then I would have been successful in it right away, not something that I would have to work at and become more skilled with. I assumed that a gift of art was something that just came naturally. I honestly did not want to put in the work, and now looking back, I regretfully wish I had. Who knows what or how the art that I was brought up on would have me today.

I have the desire to contribute to art, for I absolutely loved my time tole painting with my grandmother. I absolutely found so much joy in working at something that my grandmother and I did together. However, I am thrown with the issue of time. I feel that I do not have the time to commit to the hobby. I feel that is false because there is always time for the thing that you want to do, I would sacrifice time to do something that I want to do. But then self doubt and the lack of confidence creeps in, and with my grandmother gone, I do not have her to coach me a long when I am doubting myself, and getting after me for being my worst critic.

When I look back at my art experiences, it wasn't so that I would get the praise of doing something good or being told "oh you're so talented," but it was the time that I got to spend with who I was with. During the times that my grandmother and I would paint together, decorate cakes, or just help her in the flower shop, it would create memories that would outlast the art that was created. To me that is being successful in art, creating memories that I will cherish forever. Though I may not have a masterpiece in an art show, or be performing on the grand ole opry, art has made a lasting impact on my life. I appreciate the arts and music and all the memories that come with it.

The definition of art is the expression of an emotion that could be in the form of picture art, dance, music, etc. I feel that all art forms are based on one's emotion that is desired to be expressed. I believe that art will reach people that are going through the same type of emotion. One form in particular is music. There are countless accounts where music reaches people emotionally, for it is an escape from their own reality. I view art as being an important aspect of my life. Even though, I may not have felt I have excelled in a certain type of art, but through my own experiences and the help of

my family, it has been passed down to my own children. In particular, my oldest daughter has such a love for music that she has taken it upon herself to learn how to play percussion, clarinet, piano, a thumb piano, and even a didgeridoo. Both of my girls also have a passion for crafting and upcycling materials to make something new. Where does all this come from, could it be hereditary or is it just something that just strikes their interest. To them, in my eyes, the art just comes naturally, but yet has to work at it to perfect. With each creation, or piece of music that is learned, I see much improvement along the way. So is it a desire to be good at some type of art form or is it truly genetic that gets passed down from generation to generation.

In conclusion, art is something that can appeal to all. Have you ever heard a song on the radio and have been flooded with memories, have you looked at a painting and could almost hear the picture come to life? Art can appeal to all senses and all emotions. That is what makes it stand out. Humans are emotional beings and we relate to things that are relatable. Art can be people's escape from their everyday life, help one cope with the loss of a loved one, deal with depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress. Art, it takes on many different forms, for many different types of people, and so many different emotional levels.