

Daily Meditation Transcript 08/20/2021
Reenchantment of Life, Reenchantment of Art

Good morning.

In today's meditation I'm sharing with you this wonderful and I think very important book written several decades ago by Suzi Gablik, called *The Re-enchantment of Art*.

In it she is very much criticizing what she calls a patriarchal attitude toward art, which is about individualism almost entirely, she believes, and really lacking in values other than art for art's sake.

And her push in the book is that we have to open up the art world to its responsibilities for the survival of the planet and therefore other people to get beyond what she calls the individualism that has dominated since the Renaissance.

And she identifies that with patriarchy. And instead, we have to bring in the feminine values of interdependence and interconnectivity

And of course this now is a program, a foundation of today's science: that all beings are involved in interdependence and interconnectivity, because another word for interconnectivity, when it's translated into human behavior, is compassion.

But she, I think rightly, points out these are feminine images and values and language that have to penetrate a rigid patriarchal system.

In her instance she found it in the art world, which she made a break from, but these values of interdependence, interconnectivity, and relation, she points out, these are found in other professions as well as art that need critiquing -- These are NOT found in those professions either.

So she cites Gary Zukav in his book, *The Seat of the Soul*, where he says there's currently no place for spirituality or concerns of the heart within science, politics, business, or academia.

And she adds, "Yes, this is the case in art too, because I know the art world very well."

And notice what Zukav has said about academia, education, and of course I've been critiquing that for 45 years! That it's not even possible to teach spirituality in a model of education or pedagogy that leaves out our intuitive brain, our mystical brain, and leaves out the lower chakras, the body, because the heart is in the body.

So I'm very much on board with the work of Suzi Gablik and also of Gary Zukav.

And Suzi Gablik insists that patriarchal structures are very strong, especially strong in the art world, and they eliminate the possibility of compassion.

Now this is one more reason why the work we've been doing with Jennifer Hereth's new book, *An Artist's Response to Political Justice*, is so important.

Because she clearly is an artist who has moved into the art world with deep and profound values around justice, around compassion, around interdependence, and she's employing her gifts as an artist to share what she sees to awaken others, and of course to teach it to the next generation, which is what she's doing teaching in college and grade school and the rest.

Suzi Gablik ends her book this way: that "the next historical and evolutionary stage of consciousness is meant to be the capacity to be compassionate. This must become central not only to our ideal of success, but also to the recovery of both a meaningful society and a meaningful art. A value-based art needs to move to center stage. "

And this is possible, and surely it is necessary, because this is where the crisis of climate change, coronavirus, and the growing gap between the haves from the have-nots -- all this comes to a head around values!

Are we just going to silo ourselves, isolate ourselves as individuals or even individual nations? Or are we going to create a society where everyone can succeed, and where all beings, not just human beings, can thrive and prosper, so that future generations can avail themselves of the beauty and the health of this amazing and unique planet?

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.