

**June Theme: How does art, music, or literature make the world a better place?**

**Barbara Ehrentreu** -- Imagine a world where only business writing existed, and people didn't have any artwork at all. Think of that world where the arts didn't exist. It would be dull and boring, and life would be gray.

When children learn to read, they look at the pictures first. We are visual people and so we fill our lives with beauty and the work of artists. These artists see the world in a different way and the vision is different for every artist.

The same is true of literature. Think of not having read the beauty of Shakespeare or Jane Austin or Charles Dickens or any of the great authors. The stories of these authors live on for centuries. But all literature is as important since each author is creating their own story. So, we get to see the thoughts of many other people and experience places and learn ideas we might never have known if we hadn't read these books. The ideas we find in the literature of our culture help us to live better lives. Just as looking at a beautiful piece of art can change your life, so can reading a great story that appeals to you and uncovers something inside of you that you didn't know existed. Poetry helps you to see the emotions of many other people and to understand that everyone is connected.

I feel all of art does that by showing the observer or the reader how we are so much alike. This leads to a greater understanding between all cultures in the world.

**Doris Mady** – A few weeks ago I heard the Ukrainian national anthem performed by the Metropolitan Opera chorus and orchestra. I couldn't understand a word of it...the chorus didn't speak Ukrainian (except for 1 member who taught the words to the performers). Yet, I was moved to tears. I felt a slew of emotions...joy, sadness, strength, and oddly a sense of bonding with a nation I knew very little about. I was grateful for this one moment in time.

There are so many moments where art, music, dance, cinema, literature, etc., have affected our lives. I could not imagine living under, let's say, a Taliban rule where music is forbidden, books are censored.

Ben Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn". I say, "Bravo!" to all those who are involved and continue learning from life's beauties.

**Lee Paine** 5.16.2022

I can speak for many creative folks,  
by presenting my own point of view -  
creative arts are at the center  
of everything that we do.

We creatives just come made that way,  
with very clear instincts from the start -  
we process all challenges artistically,  
and decisions must come from the heart.

We bring another point of view  
to family and business discussions;  
we bring new light and energy to  
those in management and production.

We tend to see a way forward,  
when others reach an impasse -  
we'll be crafting new solutions,  
offering fresh ideas to the brass.

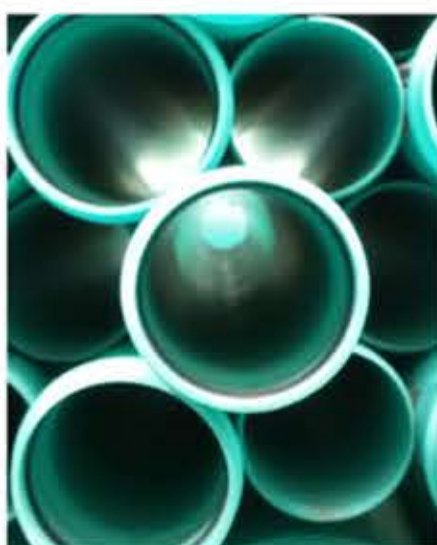
Through music, images and words,  
we translate the world as we see it -  
creating pathways to understanding,  
using our own pain, joy and wit.

The world's issues are currently very serious,  
Right and wrong are sometimes not clear.  
No one group has all the right answers.  
Many folks listen but very few hear.

Creatives and the work they do,  
make the world a much better place,  
as they can focus people's attention  
on serious issues, but in a safe space.

Images on a wall or a screen,  
music heard or words on a page,  
challenge others experiencing it,  
to process concepts, and to be their own sage.

A new viewpoint, from an artistic source,  
whether seen, heard or described,  
is much more easily ingested,  
than something forced when imbibed.



*Focusing Creativity* by Lee Paine

**July Theme: What is the most important creative habit or attitude to establish?**