



ART APPRECIATION

Covenant Group Session

Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Greenville, South Carolina

Revised by Catherine Morgan, October 2023

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting: *Here we are, together in this space. By our love and by our covenant, we make this a holy place. We light the chalice of Unitarian Universalism in honor of the light that lives in each of us, the light that shines among us, and the light we bring into the world.*

Check In: What is your favorite “art” and how has it been a part of your life in the last week?

Opening Reading:

This is the power of art: the power to transcend our own self-interest, our solipsistic zoom-lens on life, and relate to the world and each other with more integrity, more curiosity, more wholeheartedness.

~Maria Popova, Bulgarian-born, American-based writer.

Readings – see below

Questions for sharing and for discussion:

1. What is your personal definition of art?
2. What role does art play in your life?
3. Art can feed the soul: What kind of art serves that purpose for you? How and where do you find it? Is it part of your daily life, or do you need to seek it out?
4. Is there a work of art that has moved you or shifted your life in some way? Please share this with us.
5. What is your experience of art reflecting society?

Sitting in Silence (Reflect on questions and readings as you prepare what you would like to share.)

Sharing - This is a time to speak without interruption and for deep listening. Deep listening means no interrupting, no fixing, no saving, no advising, and no setting each other straight. Please share responses to one or more of the session questions.

(This is usually a good time to take a brief break)

Open Discussion - This is a time to respond to something another person said about the topic or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared their thoughts on this topic. Continue to practice deep listening.

Closing reading:

I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.

~Vincent van Gough, Dutch artist

Announcements / Plans

Check out: As we close today, how are you feeling now?

Extinguish the Chalice

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

READINGS

A data analysis of 18 major US art museums found their collections are 87% male, 85% white.

~Topaz et al, Diversity of Arts in Major US Museums, 2018

I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for.

~Georgia O'Keeffe, American painter

Love of beauty is Taste. The creation of beauty is Art. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer

The artist vocation is to send light into the human heart. ~ Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin de Francueil, best known by her pen name George Sand, French writer.

I don't know how to function without music. When I'm not making it, I'm listening to it. It gives me courage and takes care of my mind. ~Billie Eilish, American singer and songwriter.

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. ~Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist.

Life is art. Art is life. I never separate it. ~ Ai Weiwei, Chinese artist and activist.

Art must be an expression of love or it is nothing. ~Marc Chagall, Belarusian and French artist.

Art is the only way to run away without leaving home. ~ Twyla Tharp, American choreographer and author.

Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one. ~Stella Adler, American actress and acting teacher.

Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it. ~Andy Warhol, American artist.

The task of the artist is to make the human being uncomfortable. ~ Lucian Freud, British painter.

If it is art, it is not for all, and if it is for all, it is not art. ~Arnold Schoenberg, Austrian-American composer.

Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change – it can not only move us, it makes us move. ~Ossie Davis, American actor and writer.

She was able to translate pain and just put it out in the world as a form of therapy. I definitely use art as therapy. ~Julio Salgado, Mexican born artist, on Frida Kahlo, Mexican painter.

Creativity helps us realize that we don't have to understand everything. We can enjoy something -feel it and use it- without ever fully comprehending it.

~Faith Ringgold, American painter.

All religions, arts, and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom. ~ Albert Einstein, German-born theoretical physicist.