



Safari

ARTS

ART IS COMMUNION, COMRADESHIP AND COMMUNICATION.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE ARTS

The Arts have become a participatory phenomenon. People are seeking to participate in, rather than observe, creativity. The latest computer games tell stories in which the player decides on alternate plot developments. Computer graphics become an art created by the user. New video equipment can allow anyone to be a film maker. Local art-oriented networks make art generally accessible. Galleries, video centers and "events" make participants out of artist and observer. Regional drama is growing in influence. The entertainment business is becoming increasingly decentralized. Every person becomes responsible for producing images he or she believes in.

The Electronic Age has transformed the Arts and the definition of what Art is.

- * Electronic media has changed the scope, speed and content of what can be communicated. Electronic mail and medical consultation via computer are examples.
- * It has revolutionized the production of audio-visual material. Animated graphics are transferred directly from computer to video tape and computers are used in creating synthesized music.
- * It has allowed preservation of performances and it has preserved non-written art. Oral tradition is recorded on video and choreographed dance sequence is preserved on video.
- * It has allowed artistic creation at a popular level by people without specialized training. You can be your own director with a video camera.

The Human Environment itself has become an art form.

- * Artists talk about creating an environment with their art form.
 - Buildings are architecturally designed as a total environment, using natural light.
 - Music incorporates nature sounds.
- * Community is seen as an environment where art can happen.
 - Multicultural, multi sector community fairs which display community arts, crafts, music and education.
- * Consciousness of Individual creativity as an expression of art.
 - Individualized clothing styles

Global consciousness or "leaky margins" is a fact of human life today. It is manifest in the cross-cultural dimension of all the arts. Whereas the multi-cultural music of the Beatles in the 60's was a novelty, the majority of art today is eclectic, blending East and West, urban and rural.

- Ravi Shankar, one of India's foremost masters of sitar is recording with U.S. jazz musicians. Western women's fashions today blend influences from the Japanese kimono and the Indian sari. Arthur Miller recently directed "Death of a Salesman" in China.

DIRECTIONS

We identified three clear directions toward the Year 2,000 which were common to the work of both caravans, and in the dialogue of the whole waterhole defined two additional "directions" which bear watching. However, the most important trend, with long-ranging implications for the Order, is the increased participation in, and accessibility to, all forms of art communication.

1. Participation in, and accessibility to art at many levels is allowing every person the opportunity to become involved in all forms of the arts. By the year 2,000 there is no reason for anyone to be communication disabled in light of the variety of available art forms.
2. Electronic media, which includes computer, video, film, synthesizers, radio and television, is transforming the arts by providing various means for accessibility and participation. By the year 2,000 we will see a thriving expansion of the arts and an enriched experience at the local level for interaction.
3. Art is no longer a separate discipline, owned by the few. It is merging with, and transforming our daily life forms within the total environment. Every facet of the prism of our life speaks to us, has a message, and invites an artistic response, and by the year 2,000 the arts will be integral part of a caring environment.
4. A dynamic is developing between intensifying one's own culture and reaching out to interchange with another culture's art. There is also the interchange dynamic which is now happening between differing art disciplines, which bring about completely new art forms and this trend will increase by the year 2,000.
5. The targetting of specific groups with intensive production and presentation of specialized art forms is expanding people's experience of all forms of the art of communication. This trend has the potential for creating an expanded base of people who utilize art as a part of their life, as these narrowly directed sources expand people's broad awareness through the use of various art mediums.

THE DEPTH HUMAN STRUGGLE

We can all be artists. How do we allow people to experience their very lives as ART, and communicate that to every person? Part of the human struggle in the arts is to establish a sense of continuity with the past, the present, and the future. Therefore, in the large sense, art is attempting to create a flow in the consciousness of community. Continually, new decision about the commitment to, and cost of, being an artist are required today. Many artists have therefore formed cooperatives and community groups, such as acting ensembles, in order to sustain their decision to serve, with their craft, beyond their own self-fulfillment.

The artist of the new paradigm is one whose artistic and creative skills enable others to discover themselves and realize their own potential. The whole global brain functions to create a vibrant, healthy society. Art is communion, community, and communication. It is sharing that enables others to share. The mass communications media are one vehicle for art. However, that vehicle can kill as well as carry; be a weapon of spiritual death as well as an instrument of new life; it can be overpowering, dominating, and suffocating or inspirational, catalytic and encouraging.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ORDER

Functions of art:

- The practice of art instills discipline, not just obedience.
- Media impacts people emotionally.
- Different people learn through different media.
- Environment creation enables eventfulness, and events change lives.
- Art puts us in touch with something bigger than ourselves.
- Art enables us to dialogue with ourselves.
- Art enables a two way dialogue.

ART AS MASS DECLARATION (Implications)

- Professional training for ourselves to create multi-media.
- Design a total media package.
- Market it to reach the masses, including broadcast media.

SOCIAL ART

- Exhibits enable two-way dialogue.
- Reflect the new paradigm through cross-fertilization of cultures and art forms, thereby creating the new planetary culture.
- Networking: Sharing Approaches that Work.
- Broad expansion of training in use of electronic media.
- Conveying new consciousness through events such as CIE, RDS, House Life.

ART AS SPIRIT SUSTENANCE

- Developing non-verbal spirit constructs to enable all to participate.
- Training in art, meditation, sport.
- Structured time.
- Attitude of permission-giving.

EVERYTHING WE DO IS ART

- Understanding our work as our art. "Everyone an artist and all of life an art."
- Making our houses total environment to tell the new story.
- Sharing ALL our gifts.