**Craftsmanship/Art** quotes

When I think of my efforts in life as artful craftsmanship including crafting the foundation and quality of my individual character (virtuous wisdom in ethics, integrity, morality & understanding), my ability to be curious, imaginative and knowledgeable, or crafting my marriage, family, friendships, professional career, and recreational hobbies, I steadily benefit from developing a positive attitude of looking at life’s possibilities as intrinsically a joyous art, freely crafted by the individual choices I make, the example of which has its own influence, inspiration and other natural effects on others and all of life. Of course, the more elevated my character, the more elevated all else, what I think, say and do, becomes. ~ mjs *(“Always place your becoming ahead of your current being.” Jordan Peterson)*

Craftsmanship quotes and sayings exude the timeless essence of artistry and dedication, and inspire the celebration for the beautiful effort of creating with passion and precision. The saying **“In every artist, there is a touch of genius**“, reminds us there’s innate talent within each one of us to be awakened and developed. And the saying **“Craftsmanship isn’t just about tools, but the soul**” emphasizes the heartfelt connection artists have with their work. Embrace the joy of crafting, for it is the gateway to expressing the best of ourselves. “The wisdom of the wise and experience of the ages is perpetuated through quotations.” ~ Benjamin Disraeli.

These following accumulated 200+ “Craftsmanship” quotes are a small portion of my perpetual personal study – the daily seeking, reflecting upon, recording and rearranging in order of brevity, a substantial ever growing number of quotes on a myriad of subjects. It’s not important to agree with each of these “Craftsmanship” related quotes, I don’t agree with all of them, but the reading of them naturally inspires thoughtful understanding, the exercising of one’s mind, in a positive way. As Leonardo da Vinci said, “The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding.” Enjoy! ~ mjs

Creativity takes courage. ~ Henri Matisse

Love is the ultimate creator. ~ Molly Friedenfeld *(The Book of Simple Human Truths).*

One eye sees, the other feels. ~ Paul Klee

I shut my eyes in order to see. ~ Paul Gauguin

Imagination governs the world. ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

Craftsmanship is love in action. ~ Dale Dauten

Life is intrinsically a joyous art. ~ ?

Quality is not an act, it is a habit. ~ Aristotle *(We are what we repeatedly do; excellence therefor is not an act but a habit. ~ Aristotle)*

Quality is the best business plan. ~ John Lasseter

Every artist was first an amateur. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

In art as in love, instinct is enough. ~ Anatole France

A picture is a poem without words. ~ Horace *(Craftsmanship is poetry without words. ~ mjs)*

Everything you can imagine is real. ~ Pablo Picasso

An idea is salvation by imagination. ~ Frank Lloyd Wright

There is no substitute for hard work. ~ Thomas Edison

Art is either revolution or plagiarism. ~ Paul Gauguin

Love plus effort equals craftsmanship. ~ mjs

Craftsmanship is poetry without words. ~ mjs

The work of art is a scream of freedom. ~ Christo

Never judge a work of art by its defects. ~ Washington Allston

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. ~ Leonardo da Vinci

Craftsmanship is the soul of civilization. ~ William Morris

There is nothing new in art except talent. ~ Anton Chekhov

Art is the elimination of the unnecessary. ~ Pablo Picaso

Be a worthy worker and work will come. ~ Amit Kalantri (Wealth of Words)

Virtuous action is elevated craftsmanship. ~ mjs *(Virtue requires action, and life is intrinsically a joyous art, uniquely crafted by each individual. ~ mjs)*

You don’t take a photo, you make a photo. ~ Ansel Adams

I dream my painting and I paint my dream. ~ Vincent van Gogh

Craftsmanship requires total concentration. ~ Sir Ken Robinson *(focus – Ichigyo-Zanmai (single task focus): ichigyo means “single task focus/one practice” & zanmai means concentration, being immersed in, absorbed in, meditation, peace of mind. Ichigyou-zanmai is the practice of doing things to the best of one’s ability; it means putting oneself fully into the task at hand.)*

Love art in yourself, and not yourself in art. ~ Konstantin Stanislavski *(My Life In Art)*

The chief enemy of creativity is good sense. ~ Pablo Picasso *(The greatest deterrent to my learning is my education. ~ Albert Einstein)*

Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst. ~ Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Imagination without skill gives us modern art. ~ Tom Stoppard *(Artist Descending a Staircase)*

A poor original is better than a good imitation. ~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Craftsmanship isn’t just a skill; it’s an attitude. ~ Ralph Lauren *(“It’s your attitude, not your aptitude that will determine your altitude.” ~ Zig Ziglar (and several before Zig)*

Skill and confidence are an unconquered army. ~ George Herbert *(Developing skills naturally develops confidence. ~ mjs)*

Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth. ~ Pablo Picasso

Art is the expression of man's pleasure in labor. ~ William Morris

If your heart is broken, make art with the pieces. ~ Shane L. Koyczan *(Blueprint for a Breakthrough)*

The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding. ~ Leonardo da Vinci

Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson *(Self-Reliance and Other Essays)*

Everything has beauty but not everyone can see it. ~ Confucius

An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision. ~ James Whistler

It is easier to criticize than to praise craftsmanship. ~ ? *(“The man who builds a factory builds a temple, and those who work there worship there; and to each their due, not scorn and blame but reverence and praise.” ~ Calvin Coolidge)*

The earth is art, the photographer is only a witness. ~ Yann Arthus-Bertrand *(Earth from Above)*

Great prose replenishes the language it’s written in. ~ Garth Risk Hallberg

A work of art is above all an adventure of the mind. ~ Eugene Ionesco

The first mistake of art is to assume that it's serious. ~ Lester Bangs

We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents. ~ Bob Ross

The painter has the Universe in his mind and hands. ~ Leonardo da Vinci

Is love an art? Then it requires knowledge and effort. ~ Erich Fromm

Art avails nothing, when chance determines the issue. ~ Publius Syrus *(The history of freedom is never really written by chance but by choice. ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower & Those who leave trust to chance must abide by the results of chance. ~ Calvin Coolidge)*

The only way to do great work is to love what you do. ~ Steve Jobs

It’s not what you look at that matters, it's what you see. ~ [Henry David Thoreau](http://brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/henrydavid106041.html).

There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people. ~ Vincent van Gogh

I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart. ~ Vincent van Gogh

Interpretation is the revenge of the intellectual upon art. ~ Susan Sontag *(… And not only the pride of intellect, but the stupidity of intellect… the dishonesty and trickery of intellect. ~ Leo Tolstoy)*

Treat a work of art like a prince: let it speak to you first. ~ Arthur Schopenhauer

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. ~ Pablo Picaso

Quality begins on the inside, and then works its way out. ~ Bob Moawad

The principles of true art are not to portray, but to evoke. ~ Jerzy Kosinski

Genuine craftsmanship is going to reflect genuine caring. ~ ?

Art lifts man from his personal life into the universal life. ~ Leo Tolstoy.

The role of the artist is to ask questions, not answer them. ~ Anton Chekhov

Poor technique is not only inefficient, but also dangerous. ~ ?

Art is not what you see, but what you inspire others to see. ~ Edgar Degas

Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere. ~ G.K. Chesterton *(Orthodoxy)*

Art is not freedom from discipline but disciplined freedom. ~ John F. Kennedy *(“Freedom has been described as the opportunity for self-discipline.” ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower)*

We happen to be the clay and God happens to be the potter. ~ ? *(Elevated character (virtuous wisdom in ethics, integrity, morality & understanding) provides inspiration for excellence in every endeavor. ~ mjs)*

I think it is in collaboration that the nature of art is revealed. ~ Steve Lacy

Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. ~ Banksy

Quality is not an accident and is an outcome of sensible effort. ~ ?

Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist. ~ Pablo Picasso

What art offers is space, a certain breathing room for the spirit. ~ John Updike *(Make space for an elevated state of grace. ~ ?)*

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination. ~ Albert Einstein

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. ~ George Bernard Shaw *(Always put your becoming ahead of your current being.” ~ Jordan Peterson – “Creating (becoming) your best self is also discovering your best potential in yourself emanating from virtuous self-discipline. Virtues; compassion, courage, gratitude, humility…” ~ mjs)*

Craftsmanship isn’t just a means to an end; it is the end in itself. ~ Sam Maloof

Genius is the ability to renew one’s emotions in daily experience. ~ Paul Cezanne

Art is not in the ...eye of the beholder. It's in the soul of the artist. ~ Seth Godin

Talent is cheap; dedication is expensive. It will cost you your life. ~ Irving Stone *(The Agony and the Ecstasy*

The object must fulfill its function well and be pleasant to look at. ~ Gerald T James (Woodturning Design & P)

Painters, architects, and sculptors are all craftsmen, truly speaking. ~ ?

A true artist is not one who is inspired but one who inspires others. ~ Salvador Dali *(An elevated artist is an inspired individual who’s efforts naturally inspires many others. ~ mjs)*

Life challenges and refines us; soulful art inspires and refreshes us. ~ mjs

All of life, individually and in its totality is an amazing work of art. ~ mjs

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. ~ Thomas Merton

One can have no smaller or greater mastery than mastery of oneself. ~ Leonardo da Vinci

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. ~ Thomas Merton *(No Man Is an Island)*

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra. ~ Jimmy Johnson

Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind. ~ Johannes Brahms

Any form of art will require craftsmanship, creativity, and hard work. ~ ?

Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort. ~ John Ruskin *(The greater one’s effort with imagination, the more skillful one’s intelligence becomes; dream more, learn more, do more, become more; explore, experience, evolve. ~ mjs)*

Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known. ~ Oscar Wilde

Every human is an artist. The dream of your life is to make beautiful art. ~ Miguel Ruiz *(The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom) – (“We are each the artist of our day; the greater one’s awareness and integrity, the more creative and original one’s time becomes.” ~ ?)*

Only things the dreamers make live on. They are the eternal conquerors. ~ Herbert Kaufman

A poet should be so crafty with words that he is envied even for his pains. ~ Criss Jami (Killosophy)

I have nature and art and poetry, and if that is not enough, what is enough? ~ Vincent van Gogh

A deadline is negative inspiration. Still, it's better than no inspiration at all. ~ Rita Mae Brown

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without. ~ Confucius *(The Book of Rites)*

It is not adequate for you to know your craft. You must also have a feeling. ~ ?

You ought to be able to craft a life where you will find peace of your mind. ~ ?

Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone. ~ Pablo Picasso

Art is the child of nature in whom we trace the features of the mothers face. ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Art without emotion is like chocolate cake without sugar; it makes you gag. ~ Laurie Halse Anderson (Speak)

Art is not always beautiful. But the struggle to create art is always beautiful. ~ Avijeet Das *(There’s always genius and beauty in virtuous effort. ~ mjs)*

An artist is somebody who functions using his heart, his hands, and his head. ~ ?

There are a couple of individuals within an artist: the craftsman and the poet. ~ ?

When he studied, it was not so much for a promotion as to EXCEL at his job. ~ David Halberstam (Firehouse)

You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul. ~ George Bernard Shaw

Writing fiction is the act of weaving a series of lies to arrive at a greater truth. ~ Khaled Hosseini

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; genius hits a target no one else can see. ~ Arthur Schopenhauer *(Elevated genius is virtuous effort. ~ mjs)*

Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence. ~ Vince Lombardi *(Perfectly imperfect! ~ mjs)*

Imagination and skill are pre-requisites for elevated excellence in craftsmanship. ~ mjs

Art is not a handicraft, it is the transmission of feeling the artist has experienced. ~ Leo Tolstoy. *(Art)*

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up. ~ Pablo Picasso

Life is like a play; it’s not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters. ~ Seneca

Every production of an artist should be the expression of an adventure of his soul. ~ W. Somerset Maugham

All the variety, all the charm, all the beauty of life is made up of light and shadow. ~ Leo Tolstoy

A person who does the job using his head and his hands happens to be a craftsman. ~ ?

The real beauty of a finely sculpted object happens to be its beauty of craftsmanship. ~ ?

Art is collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better. ~ Andre Gide

You will not be remembered for what you copy, but for the original work you create. ~ **Frank Sudol**

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep. ~ Scott Adams

I have a conscience about my work and try to turn out a good piece of craftsmanship. ~ Catherine Gaskin

Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures. ~ Henry Ward Beecher

Much of television is bad art which immature people waste time watching, and imitate. ~ mjs

Here’s to freedom, cheers to art. Here’s to adventure and may the stopping never start. ~ Jason Mraz

Once I thought technique was everything, but now I think I was a prisoner of technique. ~ **Jean Francois Escoulen** *(The greatest deterrent to my learning is my education. ~ Albert Einstein)*

Nothing can cure the soul but the senses, just as nothing can cure the senses but the soul. ~ Oscar Wilde

The elegance of a finely sculpted object points to the natural beauty of its craftsmanship. ~ ?

Craftsmanship happens to be the basic human impulse with a desire to do a task properly. ~ ?

Teaching might be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit. ~ John Steinbeck

The art of art, the glory of expression and the sunshine of the light of letters, is simplicity. ~ Walt Whitman

Once any individual starts talking about technique, it shows that he is running out of ideas. ~ ? *(Not so; demonstrating, sharing, teaching technique helps build a solid foundation that gives others confidence which then more freely engages their imagination to take creative flight. ~ mjs)*

By being natural and sincere, one often can create revolutions without having sought them. ~ Christian Dior

A work of art is good if it has arisen out of necessity. That is the only way one can judge it. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke *(Excellent craftsmanship is of and in itself a naturally positive expression. ~ mjs)*

The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct. ~ Carl Jung

What if the link or key to healing was through finding your unique personal creative outlet? ~ Michelle Dennis Evans

Art is a selective re-creation of reality according to an artists’ metaphysical value judgments. ~ Ayn Rand

Most artists are willing to suffer for their work. But why are so few prepared to learn to draw? ~ Banksy

A person with taste is merely one who can recognize the greatest beauty in the simplest things. ~ Barbara Taylor Bradford *(Her Own Rules)*

Virtue requires action, and life is intrinsically a joyous art, uniquely crafted by each individual. ~ mjs

No matter how good we are, it is always a start. As I learned more, I did better, and so will you. ~ **Frank Sudol** *(“Always put your becoming ahead of your current being.” ~ Jordan Peterson & “In seeking wisdom thou art wise; in imagining thou hast attained it, thou art a fool.” ~ Rabbi Ben Azai & “When we cease to explore, experience and evolve (learn), we begin to die.” ~ Many Sages)*

Cinema is the ultimate pervert art. It doesn't give you what you desire, it tells you how to desire. ~ Slovoj Zizek

The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance. ~ Aristotle

Quality is the outcome of sincere effort, high intention, sensible direction, and skillful execution. ~ ?

It’s not enough to make something that works. You have to make something that delights people. ~ Warren Buffett

Without creativity, craftsmanship, and hard labor it will not be feasible to master any form of art. ~ ?

An artist who works with his hands, his head and his heart at the same time creates a masterpiece. ~ Amit Kalantri (Wealth of Words)

The more you love, the more love you have to give. It's the only feeling we have which is infinite. ~ Christina Westover *(Precipice)*

Craftsmanship names an enduring, basic human impulse, the desire to do a job well for its own sake. ~ Richard Sennett

Within each of us lies uniquely limitless potential; persevering effort refines and reveals discoveries. ~ mjs

What I like about photographs is they capture a moment that’s gone forever, impossible to reproduce. ~ Karl Lagerfeld

What is compelling with ‘War Horse’ is the jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring craftsmanship in this movie. ~ Stacey Snider

The true painter must be able, before an infinite panorama, to limit himself to reproducing a single ant. ~ Salvador Dali

The craftsman is like a musician, who reads the score of Form and converts it into the music of Beauty. ~ Andre Chaves

Fix your mind on truth, hold firm to virtue, rely on loving kindness and find your recreation in the arts. ~ Confucius

I have got a conscience regarding my work and try every bit to turn out a proper piece of craftsmanship. ~ ?

The art is not one of forgetting but letting go. And when everything else is gone, you can be rich in loss. ~ Rebecca Solnit *(A Field Guide to Getting Lost)*

Whoever uses the spirit that is in him creatively is an artist. To make living itself an art, that is the goal. ~ Henry Miller *(Life is intrinsically a joyous art. ~ ?)*

Do you not see how necessary a world of pains and troubles is to school intelligence and make it soulful? ~ John Keats

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. ~ George Bernard Shaw

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away. ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

While a laborer is going to work using his hands, a craftsman is going to use his hands as well as his head. ~ ?

Craftsmanship happens to be a fancy word that describes what happens when love is combined with labor. ~ ?

In case I am provided with six hours for cutting a tree, I will be spending the initial hour sharpening my ax. ~ ?

Speak against unconscious oppression, speak against the tyranny of the unimaginative, speak against bonds. ~ Ezra Pound

Individuals who have been trained to use their hands skillfully will become good craftsmen in no time at all. ~ ?

Genuine craftsmanship is going to reflect the genuine caring of our attitude regarding ourselves and our life. ~ ?

The most important thing about art is to work. Nothing else matters except sitting down every day and trying. ~ Steven Pressfield *(The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks & Win Your Inner Creative Battles) (This is true about all creative endeavors regardless of the medium. ~ mjs)*

There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality. ~ Pablo Picasso

To create a piece of work that you can hold in your hand, to make something that endures, it’s a magical thing. ~ Eric Clapton

Writing without responsibility is like taking off your cloths off in public and begging people to not look at you. ~ M.F. Moonjazer

History and love happen to be my inspiration while my passion happens to be responsibility and craftsmanship. ~ ?

How can we make sure we wind up behind the right door when the going gets tough? The answer is: craftsmanship. ~ Robert C. Martin (Clean Code: A Handbook of Agile Software Craftsmanship)

Craftsmanship means dwelling on a task for a long time and going deeply into it because you want to get it right. ~ Matthew B. Crawford

True alchemy lies in this formula: ‘Your memory and your senses are but the nourishment of your creative impulse’. ~ Arthur Rimbaud *(Illuminations)*

A lot of artists think they want anger. But a real, strong, bitter anger occupies the mind, leaving no room for creativity. ~ David Lynch *(“Anger occupies the mind, stifles creativity.” ~ David Lynch)*

Forgiveness is part of the treasure you need to craft your falcon wings and return to your true realm of divine freedom. ~ Shams-al-Din Mohammad Hafez

Creativity in and of itself is important for remaining healthy, remaining connected to yourself and connected to the world.” ~ Christianne Strang

A fine work of art - music, dance, painting, story - has the power to silence the chatter in the mind and lift us to another place. ~ Robert McKee *(Story: Substance, Structure, Style, and the Principles of Screenwriting)*

When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence. ~ Ansel Adams

Each of us is an artist of our days; the greater our integrity and awareness, the more original and creative our time will become. ~ John O’Donohue

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine painting, and, to speak a few reasonable words. ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe *(Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship)*

A painter should begin every canvas with a wash of black, because all things in nature are dark except where exposed by the light. ~ Leonardo da Vinci

Everyone has their own ways of expression. I believe we all have a lot to say, but finding ways to say it is more than half the battle. ~ Criss Jami *(Salome: In Every Inch In Every Mile)*

Craftsmanship isn't like water in an earthen pot, to be taken out by the dipperful until it's empty. No, the more drawn out the more remains. ~ Lloyd Alexander (Taran Wanderer)

Complimenting and encouraging an individual’s efforts inspires greater future results than complementing and encouraging their intelligence. ~ mjs

The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science. ~ Albert Einstein (The World As I See It) *(Wonderful is the experience of revealing the uniquely beautiful grain patterns within each life-filled fallen tree. ~ mjs)*

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. ~ Lao Tzu

Art is contemplation. It is the pleasure of the mind which searches into nature and which there divines the spirit of which nature herself is animated. ~ Auguste Rodin

The business of art lies just in this, -- to make that understood and felt which, in the form of an argument, might be incomprehensible and inaccessible. ~ Leo Tolstoy

Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world anymore. There is always something to make you wonder in the shape of a tree, the trembling of a leaf. ~ Albert Schweitzer

If being an egomaniac means I believe in what I do and in my art or music, then in that respect you can call me that... I believe in what I do, and I'll say it. ~ John Lennon

What made Louis Vuitton famous was the quality. We don’t do marketing; we just create products which are exceptional in their design and craftsmanship. ~ Bernard Arnault

Receive the spirit of Bezalel. The spirit of light, illumination, understanding, craftsmanship, skill, excellence, prophesy and manifestation. This is your time! ~ Dr. Paul Gitwaza

The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship. ~ Martin Luther

Skill without imagination is craftsmanship and gives us many useful objects such as wickerwork picnic baskets. Imagination without skill gives us modern art. ~ Tom Stoppard *(Artist Descending a Staircase) – (Actually, true craftsmanship is skill that often includes much imagination! ~ mjs)*

There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into sun. ~ Pablo Picasso

I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. ~ Albert Einstein

It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done. ~ Vincent van Gogh

When a work lifts your spirits and inspires bold and noble thoughts in you, do not look for any other standard to judge by: the work is good, the product of a master craftsman. ~ Jean de la Bruyere

Practicing your craft in expert fashion is noble, honorable, and satisfying. And I'll generally take a stand-up mercenary who takes pride in his professionalism over an artist any day. ~ Anthony Bourdain (Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly) *(Art without quality of purpose and substance is a waste of time. ~ mjs)*

My inspiration is always love and history, and my passion to a fault is craftsmanship and responsibility. Those are the simplest things. It goes beyond jewelry. It’s every part of my life. ~ Waris Ahluwalia *(Love & Craftsmanship: “Of life’s two chief prizes, beauty and truth, I found the first in a loving heart and the second in a laborer’s hand” ~ Kahlil Gibran. History & Responsibility: “If I have seen further it’s from having stood on the shoulders of giants.” ~ Isaac Newton, & “Many times each day I am reminded of how my outer and inner being is built upon the labors of my fellow man, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. ~ Albert Einstein.)*

Works of art, in my opinion, are the only objects in the material universe to possess internal order, and that is why, though I don't believe that only art matters, I do believe in Art for Art's sake. ~ E.M. Forster

It would be possible to describe everything scientifically, but it would make no sense; it would be without meaning, as if you described a Beethoven symphony as a variation of wave pressure. ~ Albert Einstein

You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved. ~ Ansel Adams

No one has the right to dictate what others should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, to build confidence in the creative spirit. ~ Ansel Adams

If you ask an artist or poet to explain his art/poem to you be mindful not to remove the impactful joy of receiving various insights through personal search, some of which may wonderfully differ from the artist/author. ~ mjs

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit. ~ John Steinbeck

Whatever your medium, the goal of any arts practice is to develop a greater set of skills for dealing with challenges. Experience will help you close that gap between your own vision and the piece's final execution. ~ Jeff VanderMeer (The Steampunk User’s Manual: An Illustrated Practical & Whimsical Guide to Creating Retro-futurist Dreams)

What's really important is to simplify. The work of most photographers would be improved immensely if they could do one thing: get rid of the extraneous. If you strive for simplicity, you are more likely to reach the viewer. ~ William Albert Allard

There are several ways to perform almost any act - an efficient, workable, artistic way and a careless, indifferent, sloppy way. Care and artistry are worth the trouble. They can be a satisfaction to the practitioner and a joy to all beholders. ~ Helen Nearing (The Good Life: Helen and Scott Nearing’s Sixty Years of Self-Sufficient Living)

Regardless of whether any of the pieces illustrated have an obvious use or exist as intellectual stimulation, for functional vs non-functional if you prefer, the artists’ creative processes are the same, visualization, execution, results, audience.” ~ **Donna Z. Meilach** (Creating Small Wood Objects as Functional Sculpture 1976…)

A good poem is a contribution to reality. The world is never the same once a good poem has been added to it. A good poem helps to change the shape of the universe, helps to extend everyone's knowledge of himself and the world around him. ~ Dylan Thomas

There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost. ~ Martha Graham

What do you think an artist is? ...he is a political being, constantly aware of the heart breaking, passionate, or delightful things that happen in the world, shaping himself completely in their image. Painting is not done to decorate apartments. It is an instrument of war. ~ Pablo Picasso

Even in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring two-pence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. ~ C.S. Lewis *(Mere Christianity)*

Crafting/elevating your own character (ethics/integrity/morality/wisdom) elevates every thought, word & deed, every goal, every endeavor. Taking responsibility for the daily craftsmanship of oneself is the most beautiful gift one can give to humanity, indeed all of life. ~ mjs *– (****Abraham Lincoln said, “I don’t think much of a person who isn’t wiser today than yesterday.”*** *Yet it is our positive example that naturally influences and inspires others. So what means of self-craftsmanship wisely elevates character? For resulting continuous deep joy, the “means” is a rock solid determined perpetual attitude to daily study and disciplining an ever maturing understanding of and passionate commitment to depth and spectrum of Love’s many virtues. (Virtues: compassion, courage, faithfulness, freedom, gratitude, hopefulness, honor, humility, justice, kindness, LOVE, mercy, peacefulness, perseverance, personal responsibility, self-control, self-recognition, self-reliance & truthfulness.) In-depth daily study and self-discipline of each virtue naturally inspires virtuous effort, and the community of life naturally becomes increasingly seen intrinsically as a joyous art. The world is an immense living canvas, made more uniquely beautiful by the elevated self-craftsmanship of each individual. Each individual’s thought, word and deed is a brushstroke on the canvas of one’s own daily spirit. We are always changing; we are according to our past efforts, yet we become according to what we choose to do now to endeavor to be and achieve. Each individual’s elevated self-craftsmanship naturally elevates the overall structure and beauty of the world’s living canvas. And precious freedom is the opportunity for self-discipline. -* ***“You were born with potential. You were born with goodness and trust. You were born with ideals and dreams. You were born with greatness. You were born with wings. You were not meant to crawl, so don’t. You have wings, learn to use them and fly.” ~ Rumi. & “The thought manifests the word; the word manifests the deed; deeds grow into habit, and habit hardens into character...” – “What one thinks one becomes.” ~ Gandhi****)*

She has always had a secret liking for this part of the embroidery, the ‘wrong’ side, congested with knots, striations of silk and twists of thread. How much more interesting it is, with its frank display of the labor needed to attain the perfection of the finished piece. ~ Maggie O’Farrell (The Marriage Portrait)

Even in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring two-pence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. ~ C.S. Lewis *(Mere Christianity)*

The beauty of a finely worked object points to the beauty of the craftsmanship. The beauty of the craftsmanship points to the beauty of the name which was the source of the craftsmanship. The beauty of the name of the craftsman’s art points to the beauty of the craftsman’s attributes manifested in that art. ~ Said Nursi

The pursuit of beauty: The word is hard to articulate. As soon as you open your mouth, it flies off, like a bird of paradise. Beauty cannot be caught, but we are obliged to reach for it. Beauty is not neutral; pursuing it is a political act. Building is a grand act, a gesture toward peace, the opposite of destruction. ~ Renzo Piano (Atlantis: A Journey in Search of Beauty)

I'm against the picture of the artist as a starry-eyed visionary not really in control or knowing what he does. I'd almost prefer the word 'craftsman'. He's like one of those old-fashioned ship builders who conceived the build of the boat in their mind and after that touched every single piece that went into the boat. ~ William Golding

In a world where news of inhumanity bombards our sensibilities, where grasping for things goes so far beyond our needs, where time is squandered in busyness, it is a pleasure and a privilege to pause for a look at handiwork, to see beauty amidst utility, and to know that craft traditions begun so long ago serve us today. ~ John Wilson

Most creativity is a transition from one context into another where things are more surprising. There's an element of surprise, and especially in science, there is often laughter that goes along with the 'Aha'. Art also has this element. Our job is to remind us that there are more contexts than the one that we're in -- the one that we think is reality. -Alan Kay, computer scientist (b. 17 May 1940)

When one’s heart, mind and soul cause creative effort, artful craftsmanship results whether paintings, movies, writings, sculptures, buildings, or the beauty of music. However the work is viewed and thought of, wise individuals make it a practice to admire, encourage, praise and respect good effort, which is in itself elevated craftsmanship. ~ mjs

How different everything is for the craftsman who transforms a part of the world with his own hands, who can see his work as emanating from his being and can step back at the end of a day or lifetime and point to an object, whether a square of canvas, a chair or a clay jug, and see it as a stable repository of his skills and an accurate record of his years.. ~ Alain de Botton (The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work) *(“The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain. Was not the cup that holds your wine the very clay that was burned in the potter’s oven? And is not the lute that soothes your spirit the very wood that was hollowed with knives? When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.” ~ Kahlil Gibron)*

Art is what we call...the thing an artist does. It's not the medium or the oil or the price or whether it hangs on a wall or you eat it. What matters, what makes it art, is that the person who made it overcame the resistance, ignored the voice of doubt and made something worth making. Something risky. Something human. Art is not in the ...eye of the beholder. It's in the soul of the artist. ~ Seth Godin

Nothing about a book is so unmistakable and so irreplaceable as the stamp of the cultured mind. I don't care what the story is about or what may be the momentary craze for books that appear to have been hammered out by the village blacksmith in a state of intoxication; the minute you get the easy touch of the real craftsman with centuries of civilization behind him, you get literature. ~ Dorothy L. Sayers (The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers 1899=1936: The Making of a Detective Novelist)

I am an excitable person who only understands life lyrically, musically, in whom feelings are much stronger as reason. I am so thirsty for the marvelous that only the marvelous has power over me. Anything I can not transform into something marvelous, I let go. Reality doesn't impress me. I only believe in intoxication, in ecstasy, and when ordinary life shackles me, I escape, one way or another. No more walls. ~ Anais Nin

The reality is that old houses that were built a hundred years ago were built by actual craftsmen, people who were the best in the world at what they did. The little nuances in the woodwork, the framing of the doors, the built-in nooks, the windows—all had been done by smart, talented people, and I quickly found that uncovering those details and all of that character made the house more inviting and more attractive and more alive. ~ Joanna Gaines (The Magnolia Story)

We don't value craftsmanship anymore! All we value is ruthless efficiency, and I say we deny our own humanity that way! Without appreciation for grace and beauty, there's no pleasure in creating things and no pleasure in having them! Our lives are made drearier, rather than richer! How can a person take pride in his work when skill and care are considered luxuries! We're not machines! We have a human need for craftsmanship! ~ Bill Watterson (There’s Treasure Everywhere)

I've said you can actually *see* this fusion in skilled mechanics and machinists of a certain sort, and you can see it in the work they do. To say that they are not artists is to misunderstand the nature of art. They have patience, care and attentiveness to what they're doing, but more than this—there's a kind of inner peace of mind that isn't contrived but results from a kind of harmony with the work in which there's no leader and no follower. The material and the craftsman's thoughts change together in a progression of smooth, even changes until his mind is at rest at the exact instant the material is right. ~ Robert M. Pirsig (Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values) *(This is true regarding all craftsmanship. ~ mjs)*

At one time I thought the most important thing was talent. I think now that — the young man or the young woman must possess or teach himself, train himself, in infinite patience, which is to try and to try and to try until it comes right. He must train himself in ruthless intolerance. That is, to throw away anything that is false no matter how much he might love that page or that paragraph. The most important thing is insight, that is ... curiosity to wonder, to mull, and to muse why it is that man does what he does. And if you have that, then I don't think the talent makes much difference, whether you've got that or not. ~ William Faulkner

When the maker's (or fixer's) activity is immediately situated within a community of use, it can be enlivened by this kind of direct perception. Then the social character of his work isn't separate from its internal or "engineering" standards; the work is improved through relationships with others. It may even be the case that what those standards are, what perfection consists of, is something that comes to light only through these iterated exchanges with others who use the product, as well as other craftsmen in the same trade. Through work that had this social character, some shared conception of the good is lit up, and becomes concrete. ~ Matthew B. Crawford (Shop Class as Soulcraft)

Many a blue-collar father's dream is that his son never has to sweat or break his back on the job. His son can avoid the daily grind he endured. It was a well-intentioned hope for an easier future. What those fathers did not imagine was that their sons would lose all of those skills that generations of fathers found perfunctory. Those fathers did not imagine their sons would find emptiness and no sense of accomplishment in their comfortable, air-conditioned offices. There is no satisfaction in ten percent close ratios, contract evaluations, or supply chain management that compares to a newly-painted home, an assembled engine, or a finished cabinet. ~ Ryan Landry (Masculinity Amidst Madness) *(A parent’s sacred moral duty lies in inspiring elevated virtuous wisdom within the hearts, minds and souls of their children, regardless of class, gender, race and/or religion or lack thereof. ~ mjs)*

It is good to recall that three centuries ago, around the year 1660, two of the greatest monuments of modern history were erected, one in the West and one in the East; St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the Taj Mahal in Agra. Between them, the two symbolize, perhaps better than words can describe, the comparative level of architectural technology, the comparative level of craftsmanship and the comparative level of affluence and sophistication the two cultures had attained at that epoch of history. But about the same time there was also created—and this time only in the West—a third monument, a monument still greater in its eventual import for humanity. This was Newton's Principia, published in 1687. Newton's work had no counterpart in the India of the Mughals. ~ Abdus Salam (Ideals and Realities: Selected Essays of Abdus Salam)

We grow in holiness in the honing of our specific vocation. We can't be holy *(exhibit elevated excellence)* in the abstract. Instead we become a holy blacksmith or a holy mother or a holy physician or a holy systems analyst. We seek God *(elevated excellence)* in and through our particular vocation and place in life. - Each kind of work is therefore its own kind of craft that must be developed over time, both for our own sanctification and for the good of the community. As we seek to do our work well and hone our craft, we are developed and honed in our work. Our task is not to somehow inject God into our work but to join God in the work he is already doing in and through our vocational lives. Therefore, holiness (elevated excellence) itself is something like a craft—not an abstract state to which we ascend but an earthy wisdom and love that is part and parcel of how we spend our day. ~ Tish Harrison Warren (Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life)

The notion of carefully wrought bullshit involves, then, a certain inner strain. Thoughtful attention to detail requires discipline and objectivity. It entails accepting standards and limitations that forbid the indulgence of impulse or whim. It is this selflessness that, in connection with bullshit, strikes us as inapposite. But in fact it is not out of the question at all. The realms of advertising and of public relations, and the nowadays closely related realm of politics, are replete with instances of bullshit so unmitigated that they can serve among the most indisputable and classic paradigms of the concept. And in these realms there are exquisitely sophisticated craftsmen who - with the help of advanced and demanding techniques of market research, of public opinion polling, of psychological testing, and so forth - dedicate themselves tirelessly to getting every word and image they produce exactly right. ~ Harry G. Frankfurt (On Bullshit)

For many years Minos has been lucky to have in his court the most gifted inventor, the most skilled artificer outside of the Olympian forges of Hephaestus. His name is Daedalus and he is capable of fashioning moving objects out of metal, bronze, wood, ivory and gemstones. He has mastered the art of tightly coiling leaves of steel into powerful springs, which control wheels and chains to form intricate and marvelous mechanisms that mark the passage of the hours with great precision and accuracy, or control the levels of watercourses. There is nothing this cunning man cannot contrive in his workshop. There are moving statues there, men and women animated by his skill, boxes that play music and devices that can awaken him in the morning. Even if only half the stories of what Daedalus can achieve are true then you can be certain that no more cunning and clever an inventor, architect and craftsman has ever walked this earth. ~ Stephen Fry (Heroes: Mortals and Monsters, Quests and Adventures)

Indeed we each are the artist of our days; each thought, word and deed are brushstrokes on the canvas of our souls. As one’s moral capacity (canvas) is purely potential, so the wise strive with an attitude of seeking, studying, growing and persevering in the virtues; perpetually training, educating and developing an ever maturing understanding of and passionate commitment to virtuous freedom. Accumulating virtues reveals great strength through loving kindness, wisdom through humility, a thankfulness and reverence for all of life. We become more compassionate in all interactions, naturally by example encouraging, illuminating, inspiring others likewise. Focused virtuous growth accentuates the positive and eliminates the negative (prideful self-righteous narcissism). We become more ethically fun, helpful, fearless individuals; our relationship with our entire existence improves exponentially. Thoughts manifest words, words manifest deeds, deeds become habits, and habits harden into character. So discipline your focus in the virtues and free your creative spirit; take responsibility to unshackle your potential, be an endless river of kindness and truth. The canvas of our souls will be marvelous to behold, illimitable and inimitable. ~ mjs (mike’s philoso-babble)

*When Van Gogh was a young man in his early twenties, he was in London studying to be a clergyman. He had no thought of being an artist at all. He sat in his cheap little room writing a letter to his younger brother in Holland, whom he loved very much. He looked out his window at a watery twilight, a thin lamp post, a star, and he said in his letter something like this: "It is so beautiful I must show you how it looks." And then on his cheap ruled note paper, he made the most beautiful, tender, little drawing of it. - When I read this letter of Van Gogh's it comforted me very much and seemed to throw a clear light on the whole road of Art. Before, I thought that to produce a work of painting or literature, you scowled and thought long and ponderously and weighed everything solemnly and learned everything that all artists had ever done aforetime, and what their influences and schools were, and you were extremely careful about \*design\* and \*balance\* and getting \*interesting planes\* into your painting, and avoided, with the most astringent severity, showing the faintest \*acedemical\* tendency, and were strictly modern. And so on and so on. - But the moment I read Van Gogh's letter I knew what art was, and the creative impulse. It is a feeling of love and enthusiasm for something, and in a direct, simple, passionate and true way, you try to show this beauty in things to others, by drawing it. - And Van Gogh's little drawing on the cheap note paper was a work of art because he loved the sky and the frail lamppost against it so seriously that he made the drawing with the most exquisite conscientiousness and care. ~ Brenda Ueland (If You Want to Write: A Book about Art, Independence and Spirit).*

Go into yourself. Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depths of your heart; confess to yourself whether you would have to die if you were forbidden to write. - This most of all: ask yourself in the most silent hour of your night: must I write? Dig into yourself for a deep answer. And if this answer rings out in assent, if you meet this solemn question with a strong, simple “I must,” then build your life in accordance with this necessity; your whole life, even into its humblest and most indifferent hour, must become a sign and witness to this impulse. Then come close to Nature. Then, as if no one had ever tried before, try to say what you see and feel and love and lose... - ...Describe your sorrows and desires, the thoughts that pass through your mind and your belief in some kind of beauty - describe all these with heartfelt, silent, humble sincerity and, when you express yourself, use the Things around you, the images from your dreams, and the objects that you remember. If your everyday life seems poor, don’t blame it; blame yourself; admit to yourself that you are not enough of a poet to call forth its riches; because for the creator there is not poverty and no poor, indifferent place. And even if you found yourself in some prison, whose walls let in none of the world’s sounds – wouldn’t you still have your childhood, that jewel beyond all price, that treasure house of memories? Turn your attentions to it. Try to raise up the sunken feelings of this enormous past; your personality will grow stronger, your solitude will expand and become a place where you can live in the twilight, where the noise of other people passes by, far in the distance. - And if out of this turning-within, out of this immersion in your own world, poems come, then you will not think of asking anyone whether they are good or not. Nor will you try to interest magazines in these works: for you will see them as your dear natural possession, a piece of your life, a voice from it. A work of art is good if it has arisen out of necessity. That is the only way one can judge it. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke