

CREATIVE MANIFESTO

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31 / 12 / 25

Art plays a special role in human life. Creating, receiving, and sharing art helps us to make sense of the messy, wonderful, and often challenging experience of being. Through it we celebrate joy and mourn loss, find peace and cultivate connection, and learn to embrace the inherent tension between order and chaos. Art opens the mind and strengthens the spirit. In hard times it is a subtle but powerful medicine. To be an artist is therefore a profound responsibility. As the keepers of this craft, we can help bend the arc of history towards compassion. We cannot anesthetise humanity from all suffering or permanently protect life from death—these are inescapable realities—but we can nurture love and understanding to help resist fear and hate.

As an artist, I will ...

1. Try to make art that nourishes those who encounter it. I want people to feel open, inspired, and connected for touching what I have made.
2. Try to avoid the temptation of making and sharing art as an exercise in self-aggrandisement. This is a seductive trap that poisons the creative well and distorts art into a force for disconnection and unhappiness.
3. Try to teach the skills of my trade with others, both so that they can benefit from it in their own lives and so that its good can propagate into the future. The more people are empowered to make art with an open heart, the better the world will be.

