

Conscious Living

A Guide To Enlightenment

Volume 4, Issue 2

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on Remote Viewing**

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Twin Souls & Soul Mates

The Mission of Art

Visions of the Year 2020

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The Mission of Art by Alex Grey

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Art is the song of the inner life. Its key role in the human drama is as a great convincer, not of one myth, religion or ideology, but as the raw passion and evolutionary force of the inner world. Our inner world -- the life of our imagination with its intense feelings, fears and loves -- guides our intentions and actions in the world. Our inner world is the only true source of meaning and purpose we have.

Artists offer the world the pain and beauty of their souls as a gift to open the eyes and heal the collective. In order to produce their finest works, artists lose themselves in the flow of creation from their inner world, and become possessed by an art spirit. Every work of art embodies the vision of its creator and reveals a facet of the collective mind. Art history shows each successive wave of vision flowing through the world's artists.

Alex Grey is the author of *Sacred Mirrors: The Visionary Art of Alex Grey*, published by Inner Traditions. Grey's paintings appear to "x-ray" the human body and the multiple layers of reality, revealing the interplay of anatomical and spiritual forces. It is evident from his works that he sees art as a transformative calling, not unlike the path of the shaman. In his new book, *The Mission of Art*, published by Shambhala, he combines his knowledge of art history with his own experience of creating art at the boundaries of consciousness. He explores the evolution of human awareness, and the role of art as a spiritual practice.

The Journey of the Wounded Healer by Alex Grey



The artist wields a powerful instrument for personal expression, planetary healing and spiritual awakening. New art forms

The history of art is a vast record of thousands of artists, and their acts of disciplined passion which have brought vision to form. Such a program of passionately committed actions could be called a mission. Yet, the mission of art cannot be limited or strictly defined with words. It is much like Lao-tse said of the Tao, "the way" of enlightened wisdom, "The Tao which can be put into words is not the real Tao, not the ultimate eternal Tao..." The artist's mission may not ever be put into words or well-understood, but its invisible magnetizing presence will infuse an artist's work completely. By mission, I mean the inner calling to creatively serve our physically, and spiritually depleted world. The artist can be a spiritual emissary working in any media in any part of culture. Mission connotes personal passionate commitment to something. Mission is applied vision.

An artist's mission is determined by their view of life. For each culture, art embodies and communicates insights that help people interpret life and take action in the world. Different works of art reflect differing world views and levels of consciousness. Some works focus on the physical world or the emotions. Other art is highly mental. Many works seem devotional and heart-centered, and guided by the soul's transcendental nature. The artist attempts to make inner truths visible or audible, sensible in some way, via an external material world manifestation such as a painting or song. To create a new transpersonal work of art requires an artist's personal experience of the divine.



emerge through visionary insight, technical innovations, and when cultures collide. Today, the simultaneous impact of so many technological innovations and divergent world cultures is spawning a hybrid multicultural art. Popular music is filled with sounds from cultures sampled from all around the globe. Musicians from afar have collaborated with musical strangers and created a new World Beat sound. This trend can only increase.

Artists at the dawn of the 21st Century have the unique opportunity to create a universal spiritual art. This art will be born from visions of sacred archetypes common to all mystic paths. The spirit of the times will choose artists sufficiently prepared for this task. The challenge to an artist today is integrating the vast visual legacy of human culture with their own deepest and highest personal insights, and distilling that into works of art.

The unearthing of Paleolithic paintings in the 20th century reveals that art is a mighty instinctual force implanted in the hearts of people. Art is the people's collective mind. Art is not a mere amusement, distraction or fashionable investment. Though the artist, their art and the viewer are all impermanent, art can provide evidence of contact with the universal creative force beyond time. Art has a function and a mission to interpret the world, to reveal the condition of the soul, to encourage our higher nature, and to awaken the spiritual faculties within every individual.

Art can be a form of worship and service. The incandescent core of an artist's soul, a glowing God's eye infinitely aware of the beauty of creation, is interlocked with a network of souls,



Vision Crystal by Alex Grey

each one a facet of the Vision Crystal, part of one vast group soul. The group soul of art beyond time comes into time by projecting symbols through the artist's imagination. God's radiant grace fills the heart and mind with these gifts of Vision. The artist honors these gifts by weaving them into works of art and sharing them with the community. The community uses them as wings to soar to shining vistas and beyond.

