

Salvos Community Arts engagement Conference

Session 2- Place Making.

Any artist would know,
that their relationship with their art,
is never one way.
It is never a monologue.
It is always a dialogue.

If I am a creator of any worth,
Then I am never doing a poem,
I am dancing with the words.
Letting them lead me where they so desire.
I am giving up control,
a surrender of what I want to DO to the page,
it's a choice to let the words
shape me as much as I shape them.
It is a relationship.
A relationship.

Like this morning we sit, and it is no monologue from an **expert**
who has the right **words**. It is something with far more risk.
This, was the hosting of conversation,
The building of relation-ship.
And all relationships
begin with the awkward conversation of two strangers
just getting to know each other.

Like I am getting to know the characters of the story I am writing.
It is the initial awkward sentences of a first scene in the story.
It is the beginning paint strokes on a canvas,
Though I have no idea what the end product is to become.
And you have no idea what the end product is to become.

And the temptation is to run, isn't it.

The temptation is to keep bumping down the stairs, with pooh bear.
Go back into the safety of knowing the outcome,
cause it's what we've always done.
So we run from the risk of opening up ourselves
to the words that could change you as you write them on the page,
to the paint brush that might paint you as much as you paint the canvas.
to the stranger, whose life story, even if shared in 58 seconds,
might just change your own story.

Did you let the stories you heard today stir something alive inside you?

Friends, THIS is where we begin to build a different kind of community.
With our head and our hands and our heart and our feet.
Seeing beyond someone's face to the story that lies beneath.
No matter who is IN THE ROOM...

And God says,

Where are all those people who are made in my image.... And everyone here says...

That's me.

And God says,

Where are all those people who are Creative even though they might not feel like they are and they've justified it for too long, but creativity is an innate part of them that that is sparking inside them and wanting to burst forth all around ...

And everyone here says...

That's me.

And God says,

Where are all those people, willing to enter this world with an open heart and open open hands and host a space of belonging and knowing and story-telling where each and any every person might find a place of home as relationships are built and we discover each other.

And everyone here says...

That's me.

It is. It really is.