

OBSERVATIONS ON PAINTING

by Roy Moyer

Some paintings are big and spacious, seen while standing up in a museum or gallery. Some are seen sitting down, small, in books and magazines.

Some are hard and geometric in banks and corporations, bold and aggressive; some in doctor's offices and waiting rooms, relaxing, inviting no questions, ignored.

Some can only be seen in private; and some appear as ads on the backs of buses.

There are some looked at carefully, and some glimpsed in passing.

There are some that encourage us to believe in the future and others that make us despair of it.

Some prove that there is beauty in the world; others fail to.

There are some that consist of lines and colors and might be thought to be a little technical; others so full of natural beauty that after looking at them there is no need to go for a walk.

There are some that are despised by the critics, but that thrill little children.

There are some that are filled with every wonder under the sun and some that are so simple that one questions whether they are paintings at all.

There are some that make one love life; others, after painting which, the painter committed suicide.

There are some that are corroded by hatred and violence, and some that are colored by love and seem to shine with an inner glow.

There are some familiar paintings one loves like a friend.

Some are as ambiguous as life itself, and even after deep study they are impossible to understand.

Some are not worth a cent; and others are extremely valuable, and some help us to understand that the only possession of any value is life.

Some depict royal courts and rich patrons; and others depict the ragged and the very poor and dying.

There are some paintings that create a passionate wonder at the process of their creation; some hint at a life after death.

Some take five minutes to paint, but a lifetime of living and discipline to produce.

Some try to capture one, and some give one a glimpse of freedom.

There are some that are hypnotic and put one in a debilitating trance; and some are made to exorcise and cure.

Some lead us to the center of our being; and others drive us outward to action.

Some are so heartrending that one donates money to a charity.

Some engender pleasure in common things; others make us envious of riches.

There are some paintings that are simply automatic doodlings; others are entirely intellectual.

There are paintings that frustrate those that want to touch, but produce ecstasy in voyeurs.

Some are the subject of long discussions in classrooms. There are some about which there is nothing to say.

Some paintings attempt to mock and destroy art, painted by artists who, as children, smashed their playmates' toys.

Some little-known paintings are profound and require education and thought; some well-known paintings are shallow, requiring no knowledge and can be enjoyed as entertainment or decoration.

All painting contain some aspect of reality; and all paintings contain some lies.

EXCUSE NOTES FROM PARENTS

(Real notes written from parents in a Texan school district, original spelling left intact.)

- Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 33.
- Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

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We will publish your upcoming show if you tell us the name of the gallery, full address, dates and organizations (if any). Also, please send us your contrasty, black and white, colors photos or laser prints, with an arrow indicating which side us UP. We prefer horizontal works of art. Send your material to:

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