Experiencing the Arts

Thinking about the arts brings back several fond memories of the love affair that I have seen with it throughout several years of my life. Art has managed always to be a significant part of my existence, and it has shaped me into a very creative individual in several key areas. I have beautiful memories of engaging in the performing arts in my childhood years, musical arts in my adolescence, and my favorite, visual arts in my young adult years.

**Experience with Visual Arts**

The most profound experience that I've had with the arts came at a time when I decided to enroll as a fashion merchandiser at The Art Institute of Washington. It was my second semester, and my schedule included my very first visual arts class with professor Yavelburg. I first attended the class, not knowing what to expect from the whole experience, but I later discovered that it would be an experience that would change my life forever. At first, the class touched on the foundational components that underline most art courses such as line, form, color, perspective, etc. Then the major began as professor Yavelburg took the class on an exploration of the visual arts.

I first approached the visual arts as an observer or audience member. I explored the works of famous artist such as Da Vinci, Van Gogh, Picasso, Salvador Dali, and my favorite artist, Warhol. It was a pleasurable experience in observing the art of such great talent, but the real joy came in uncovering the life of the actual artist.

The class had the opportunity to visit several exhibits and museums where we also had the chance to explore sculptural artworks. Artists such as Edgar Degas, Duchamp, and Rodin come to mind. My favorite sculptures are "The Thinker" and "The Little Fourteen-Year-Old

Dancer."

The real fun began when I became a participant and starting creating artwork of my own based on what I had learned throughout the class. I began to sketch using pencil, ink, charcoal, pastels, and colored pencils. Then I graduated to painting using watercolor, gouache, oil and acrylic. My work included portraits, landscapes, abstracts, and still life. I also recreated architecture and designed digital art.

**How I Was Affected**

 Creating visual art and witnessing the artwork generated by some of the world's greatest artists had a profound effect on me. I learned about personal expression and how art is a powerful communication tool. In a lot of ways, art can act as the unspoken voice of the artist. I also learned how art could hold a mirror up to society and reenact the nature of the times.

This discovery created a new obsession within me. I learned about how to develop and foster creativity. How to perform deep observations and think outside of the box. I learned the true essence of an artist.

**Continuation of Participation**

I plan to continue my involvement in the visual arts by continuing to create visual artwork. At present, my favorite medium is oil painting in various formats. I enjoy painting as a means of self-expression.

**Conclusion**

The arts are powerful expressions of creativity and imagination that often imitate the world. They express the inner working of the artistic mind and hold a mirror up to the world as a reflection of human existence. Art serves several purposes. One primary objective may be to express thoughts and ideas. Another may be to create a historical account or just to create something beautiful and enriching. Some art is created to teach and shed light on a subject, while other works may be set up to challenge and demand action. Art may ask a question or give an answer. Whatever the purpose may be, art is undeniably an important part of life that creates a dialogue between man and the world. It is a powerful form of expression that has existed since the beginning of time, and that will endure until the end of life itself.