

Thursday, January 24, 2013

Art: Importance and Me

Why does art matter to me?

Well, for starters, it connects with me on so many different levels. It's a way to relieve any and all pent up emotions or stress. It can calm and soothe me when I need it most. It can make me question the world, spurring creativity and focus. The most important thing, I think, is that it can connect with others on so many levels, spanning time, space, languages, and beliefs.

In my life, art, especially music and literature, plays a huge role. I could not live without my music. It is part of who I am. It defines me in a way. I listen to a wide range of music, from trailer/orchestra to hip hop and pop to alternative to Korean and Japanese pop music. Sometimes, I like the songs because of the lyrics and meaning. Others, it has to do with the beat. Either way, it touches me on an emotional and spiritual level. When I'm upset, I turn on my rock/screamo playlist, which helps me to release all of my anger and sadness. If I want to sleep, I have a playlist for that, too. Music is a soundtrack, really. It's a soundtrack of life. Some people try their whole lives to make an impact. Sometimes, this is how they do it.

I have one song in particular that I have kind of chosen as my theme song to describe me and my life. It's called "What I'm Dreaming Of," and it's by Trading Yesterday. It goes a little like this [a brief excerpt]:

Welcome to a new beginning
Welcome to a brand new side of me
This will be the life I'm meant to lead

* * * * *

Life is more than just survival
Love will be the thing that sets me free

Just a little faith is all I need
I am not inclined to give up now
The sky is calling, I will fly

* * * * *

I will not stand and wait for life to come
I will live what I am dreaming of

Every time I doubt myself, I listen to this, and it picks me up. It raises my soul in a way, making me think positively and making me happy in a way.

There are many other artists I like, too. Here's a really rough list: Disturbed, Evanescence, Girls' Generation, Breaking Benjamin, Three Days Grace, Red, Skillet, John Williams, Two Steps From Hell, Hans Zimmer, Linkin Park, and many more.

However, despite how big music is to me, I love literature as well. Books have a way of making me forget everything around me, sucking me into another realm or world. It turns my mind into a creative hub, where I change the events in books just a little to see how much of a difference it would make. I have always read, and I always will. Reading always calms me down.

There are occasions where they make me angry, so I stop for a little while before picking it up again.

During all of this, I realize how lucky I am. We're lucky to have the opportunity to be able to create art and share it freely. I wonder what it would have been like to live during rough times like the Holocaust. If I were there to witness the burning of books by Jewish authors, I would have cried at the loss. If I lived in Turkey, where I had to watch what I wrote, what I said, I would go mad. Writing is another art form, and it should be treated with kindness and reverence. We weren't always able to do art, to share our ideas. We should hold those thoughts highly and proudly, not condemn and repress them. Without art, humanity would go crazy, I think. We would have no way to communicate with each other, no way to find peace within ourselves.

So obviously, art matters a lot to me.

I think that's enough discussion for today.

Toodles!