

This is the Art Age. A creative movement is sweeping the globe like none other. We are entering the age of spiritual machines if you study Ray Kurzweil.

The singularity is near. That is the marriage of man and his computer. Currently our blood is all the same, but soon we will be biological and non biological people. That is those with artificial intelligence implants and those without.

We are all the creative species facing unprecedented change. We have not particularly honoured that in our policies locally nationally or globally.

We have grown slack at acknowledging our talents and developing our own individual artistic expression. A prophet is not without honour except at home and we are all having trouble at home. It is easier to work overseas or from afar. It is easier to depersonalize than personalize. The new generation are challenging the herd mentality, they will not sing baa black sheep rather sing baa rainbow sheep.

Living is a more isolated experience for youth every day. Many youth feel adrift and in an alien land. Children are very modest about their talents, and uncertain. They need encouragement to present themselves and their talents. If we ask young children, Do you have a creative background? Do you think that your talents are vital? They will universally say, YES.

Young children know they are the creative species. They tend to laugh about it. Watch children playing uninterruptedly and they are experiencing bliss. So where does all the bliss go as they get older?

In U. S. A. the A 1 educational problem is the closing of the dream eyes of children aged 8-13years. It is the same in many countries of the world. Wars, terrorism, recession etc the climate change, is hurting our young more than us. For many God has not died, he just never existed.

Creativity is the tool for healing our communities. An arts event is part of a health drive. There is no such thing as them-sport or us- art. Art is long and sport is short. Art is the sign post and the measure of the society. It is the legend and the myth, the recorder of the age. Sport, Art and Science are all needed and should not be in contest. We have entered a new millennium where the great gods of art and science are out of heavenly alignment. We are following the wrong God home. Science is objective, measured and clinically impersonal, whereas Arts are immeasurable, subjective, and personal. We have not got the social humanities which we need to cope with the technological changes which are moving rapidly around us.

We need both, but in balance.

Arts are vulnerable in the technological explosion of our time. Revivals start with an apology and humanity needs to apologize to The God of Arts for neglecting it, in its policies for humankind. We are standardizing our schooling programmes and neglecting our creative development at the time when we most need all the creativity we can muster to solve and translate the new mysteries and complexities facing the world today.

Geography is no longer an issue: we are one world, one planet. In crisis.

### **What can we do?**

To make the future work we need to support youth

- Keep focus on the vision of a great future— or else division will occur.
- Believe in the finest values and put these in front.
- Shape up, clean up. Be positive in all we say about the future.
- Be accountable to the team we work with

- Be accountable to our own gifts
- Be delighted about our achievements
- Be quiet and gentle in our relationships
- Be supportive to all we work and play with
- Have faith in the dream that the best is yet to come
- Be prepared to grow change and accept new ideas
- Be committed to our dream and our talents
- Read up keep informed
- Join up with the like minded, get in a good peer group
- Be big about everything, no put downs or belittlement
- Focus outwards. Look to the bigger picture
- Stay balanced calm and serene, no panic or reactionary behaviours

Blockages are occurring in us all because of unwise use of time and talents.

- Fear of unknown and unseen
- Doubt- unbelief
- Blockages of the mind limitations criticisms
- Trivialising belittling negativity and complaint

The growth process for the world is huge and painful but it will be harder if we stop dreaming. We must both dream and do. Youth are at the coal face and crossroads of all changes and changes are rapid and permanent.

- New identities
- New responsibilities
- New freedoms
- New understandings
- Expected to have greater maturity at an earlier age through greater understanding

Youth are hindered in their progress by those who are arm chair philosophers with endless intellectual premises, blind dogmatists and torrents of irrefutable evidence.

They are also hindered by romantic optimists, by guess work, by head in the sand and outdated structures.

### **Things that really help youth are;**

- Having the specific approach for every individual works.
- Every one to their own job, which is not quite the same as delegating.
- Demonstrating out there. Actually doing something creative now, with, and beside youth.
- Going out and talking about it.
- Sharing belief in the tremendous opportunities ahead.
- Publishing and speaking about the potential.
- Connecting with the Youth who are going to be involved. Not planning ahead without them.
- Doing every thing with dignity; authority does not shout, a voice with authority may seldom be much more than a whisper.

### **What attitudes should we model for youth?**

Shotgun approaches to changing our communities seldom work... we need to be sharp shooters. Focussed and disciplined.

- Appreciating and thanking people in advance for what is going to happen
- Praise and gratitude and acknowledgement
- Thank afterwards rewarding and celebrating
- Expect the unexpected
- Accept the unacceptable
- Have humility and apologize
- Practice open leadership
- Share your problems and insights
- Agree to take care of each other
- Building a powerful community takes everyone.

We are always looking for leaders. Why not every one of us, starting with our young? Art is not a contest. It is not a competition. It is the way of conscious raising and expressing beliefs which is vital and necessary. Art is not a luxury, it is a human necessity.

### **All Communities Need**

- A Children's art house. This really helps the community's vibrancy. Creative children ensure creative communities. A policy for the Art. A policy for children. A policy for Youth. A policy for Art with a strong child youth arts component.

Has your community got a reputation of being a District with a heart and one with a get up and go? Have you got a Childrens Art House in your community? I urge you to continue the work of keeping Childrens art eyes open. Our future depends on it. We need all the bright sparks we can muster. Love Art and be Kind to each other are the two rules of the New Zealand Children's Art Houses. If we follow these rules home we will harvest great talents and a wonderful future.