



# Summer Glee to Thee

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

if the truth is to be allowed to live or set us free, let us heal her and save her defenders. The masters of the past have set a timeless standard for art; this has been recently pointed out by her advocates. Art needs to be revered as the launch-pad for greatness in our own time.

Are there still non-artists out there who recognize real art? Art is buried, like so many layers of hard candy hiding the soft truth in the center. How long will our curiosity be piqued by layers of fake flavoring and corn syrup, before we start looking for the chewy, chocolate truth inside? Art takes work, insight, spirituality and more work. Let's not look to the mislabeled to show us what we want to see; let us look to the past and to real standards to show us where we are.

Want to know if someone is correctly labeled an artist? Compare his work, drawings, notes, to a venerable hero of the past. The truth is objective, and there are methods of proving it. Eugene, be unafraid! Yes, art is here, and we can all share her truth. How many more licks is it going to take to get to the center of this Tootsie Pop?

*Willie Paradis  
Elmira*

### ART HAPPENS

To Annie Kayner and all who are interested in the ridiculously pathetic notion that there could be an ultimate source for determining who is a "real" artist, I would like to add this simple view: Art happens.

It happens in every breathing, waking and sleeping moment of our lives. Perhaps it even happens in death, but I wouldn't know for sure because I haven't been there. Artists are people who, upon an encounter with love, horror, anguish, joy, insanity or whatever (be it real or imaginary) experience the pull at their heart-strings so intensely that they are impelled to capture it. The obsession to capture it is so great it becomes a driving force. Anyone can engage in this. It is open to *all* who are open to *it*.

Is a Crayola crayon rendering of a child's first rainbow sighting *not* a work of art? What about the 50-year-old woman who obsessively designs and sculpts the garden in her yard over and over for 20 years, always changing and evolving and passionately displaying exquisite beauty? Is she not an artist because she has only one garden to show?

When I read "Real Artists Don't Play Games" (6/10), I laughed so hard and thought it was a joke. I mused that surely it must be another one of those entertainingly stupid articles printed for the sole purpose of getting people like me all riled up. But I did have a great idea for your next art project: Picture a bronze casting of a larger-than-life-sized shoulder — a human shoulder about 6 feet tall. Facing it would be a life-sized man or woman with chisel and hammer in hands, working diligently to take out a *big* chip. I wonder what the title would be?

For all of us with many years in the arts and education, I would suggest that instead of squabbling over what is or isn't art, we should devote more energy to helping others realize their own creative potentials.

*Amy Gaudia  
Eugene*

### NO SCARE TACTICS

Mike McGlone (7/29) writes regarding Nader that "scare tactics and name calling to

coax people into voting for [Kerry] is not the way to go." I agree. I supported Nader in 2000 because I believed then, and believe now, that if what we really want is a more democratic system, then we need many parties, and a wide range of candidates to choose among, including genuine progressives.

The problem is, how do we get from here to there? Unfortunately there is no easy way. Meanwhile, even relatively small changes in government can have significant long-term consequences, at least when it comes to such things as healthcare, the environment, patterns of media ownership, judicial appointments, and international relations.

No one should have illusions about Kerry. If elected, we cannot expect much from him unless there is also a sea change in Congress, and a groundswell of support for progressive causes. I'll vote for Kerry not because I think that he will improve everything, but because he may improve some things. I think that is the most that we can reasonably hope for this year.

My sympathies remain with what Nader, at his best, stood for: a genuinely democratic alternative to a decayed system. But given winner-takes-all rules and what looks like a close contest, to vote for Nader this year is to vote for Bush. I don't say that as a scare tactic, just as a reminder of the situation. I wish it were different.

*George Gessert  
Eugene*

### BUSH'S MOTIVATIONS

When will the national media muster the courage to expose that the emperor George W. Bush is not wearing clothes, as in the old fable. He did not want to depose Saddam Hussein because of a belief regarding the latter's developing/possessing weapons of mass destruction, nor to bring democracy and freedom to the Iraqi people, nor to gain control of Iraq's valuable oil production. George W.'s motive was impure, but simple: to get back at the man who attempted to kill his father George H.

The president's cronies around him, e.g. Cheney, may have wanted to mobilize the war machinery because of Iraq's oil and the resultant increased profits for their own already rich pals, but no one has given any weight whatsoever to Bush's own personal motives for his war against Saddam Hussein. I do not fault Bush for feeling as he does about Saddam, for I, too, would want to eliminate any person who attempted to take one of my loved one's lives. But Bush had control of the machinery, including the bodies of our young men and women, to actually act upon his feelings. And as a consequence of his personal vendetta, hundreds of our youth, our country's future, have lost their lives, thousands more have been physically, mentally, and/or emotionally wounded, and a region of our world is now in total chaos.

The bottom line is that WMD's and advancement of democracy were mere cover stories to clothe Bush's personal, revengeful agenda against Saddam, to hoodwink the U.S. Congress and American people to go along with it, to even support it. Are the national media pundits afraid to admit that they, as well as we, were duped?

*Michael D. Linick  
Eugene*

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