

July 25, 2012

Dear Friends

I have a yin to buy an easel, canvass, paint and have a go even though I am graphically handicapped. I've always envied my Dad's skills in this department but never acted on it.



The book - "Trust the process - an artists guide to letting go" describes the development of Art as a practice that flows once one commits ink or paint to paper with creative intent. Mood and environment willing!

Many of us are inhibited from creative work because we believe that we should envision a picture or script before we start. We are obsessed with drawing something rather than simply expressing ourselves. Shaun McNiff observes that when we start with a seed, ideas grow as we develop them, inspiration flows through the act expression.

While reading, I kept asking myself about the painting that I would like to paint had I the skill. Somehow the idea around "the lilies of the field" emerged as a reminder that our providing God effortlessly clothes the fields with wealth and beauty, a faith sustaining motif.

As a one time student of Botany it occurs to me that I could represent each chapter of my life with a different Lily. The red and gold flame lilies of the African savannah, the orange Cannas found on higher ground in Zambia, fields of pink Watsonias on Helderberg mountain, Arum lilies in the wetlands of the Cape Flats, the delicate water lilies in British ponds, not to speak of the flavorsome onions, leeks and garlic representing the varieties we eat.

For our emotional comfort we use exotic orange and pink Tiger Lilies in floral arrangements to express romance and homeliness and white ones at times of parting. There is even a welcoming display on Stanborough Park at the moment.

As with our lives, there are many brush strokes to follow, each affirming the goodness of God and his power to provide in times of difficulty.

So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these..... will not God much more clothe you?.....Therefore do not worry...Matt 6:28

Sometimes we talk about 'letting the 'Spirit' move, sometimes the Spirit simply requires that we take the first step, just like the Israelites crossing the Jordan. May the Good Lord give you the courage, to begin your creative endeavor and the strength to follow through. Thank you for your courage.

Yours sincerely

Victor

Handwritten signature of Victor Pitwood.