

Can contemporary art say something about spirituality?

It is always interesting for me as an artist that art historians seem to distance themselves from the concept of spirituality, when it forms the backbone of my own work and that of other artists.

While I don't set out to create work that is spiritual, I still believe that through my art I express my own spiritual beliefs as they relate to the way I live and how I respond to the environment and landscape around me.

In considering what contemporary art can say about spirituality, it is important to also think about the emerging focus of the spirit and its healing effects on life. What in the past has been a specialist area is now the concern of everyone.

Through my art I explore the creative potential of the spirit and connect to it through a process of mindfulness in the mark making itself. As Earle Coleman has shown "... aesthetic ideas can serve as bridges to spiritual categories ..." relating aesthetic bliss to "... the peace that passes all understanding."¹

Robert Wuthnow² suggests that artists have become the spiritual vanguard of our time. Wuthnow argues that spirituality is coming increasingly to focus on the inherently ineffable character of the sacred, what artists refer to as divine mystery. People are turning to artists more and more to seek an intuitive sense of the sacred through symbols and imagery.

I know in my own work that I try to integrate my own understandings of spirituality through landscape and my more conceptual work - I feel that I am closest to God when I create my work than at any other time.

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¹ Earle Jerome Coleman, *"Creativity and Spirituality: Bonds Between Art and Religion"*, SUNY Press, 1998

² Robert Wuthnow, *"Creative Spirituality: The Way of the Artist"*, University of California Press, 2003