

it is the art, most often, that receives the positive recognition. It is the art that usually relates to people and satisfies their basic need for beauty. I have had management of the larger private institutions tell me that there has been an increase in productivity when there is an art installation.

Even the controversy that often surrounds art in public places is nothing to fear. Controversy can be healthy and stimulating as it provokes thought and study.

The very fact that we have in this country a great drive to preserve historic buildings ( which many times are not even sound structures) is because they represent an art form, a unique design that identifies a period of development of history.

In the long run, art in public places is good for government. It develops pride in citizens toward their public property, which we know lessens vandalism and crime. The public shows a reverence for national monuments, particularly those where art is inherent to the design.

The Fountain Gallery which I operate represents approximately sixty artists who reside in all parts of the state of Oregon. Of those sixty artists, fifty-five of them, or 91% DO NOT earn over the poverty level amount of income or \$ 2,390 from efforts of their chosen profession. True, some of them, when they are able to find that job, earn income from other sources, however, it seems inappropriate that a professional artist should have to hold down two or three jobs so that their families can enjoy some of the most simple privileges of life such as reasonable medical care, proper nutrition and decent housing. This seems particularly true when it is and has been the special vision of the artist that has provided for the human spirit. In President Kennedy's plea for a national cultural center he said, "after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we will be remembered not for our victories or defeats in battle, or in politics, but for our contributions to the human spirit." And he added that art is "Political in the most profound sense, not as a weapon in the struggle, but as an instrument of understanding."

The Lou Harris Research Center study found that 93.1 million Americans would be willing to pay an additional \$ 5.00 per year in taxes to support the arts and cultural facilities. The same report states that 89% of the nation's