

Finding My Way In the Art World

Volume One

by

L.HUNT

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Introduction

My original purpose for this set of books was primarily an examination of art in relation to a human life. Or it could very well have been an examination of a human life in relation to art, I'm not sure. Both statements would have been true, as both perspectives are represented here. And it just so happens that - by necessity - it would be *my* particular life that would be put under the microscope. As I focused the lens down sharply upon the spirit and pigment of this artistic human canvas, the story then enlarged to include my lifelong attempt to find my *way* in the art world. The cells split further and the brush painted the parallel story of me trying to find my *place* in the art world. So why are my *way* and my *place* in the art world different?

Well, finding my *way* has been like a maze, as I've looked for different avenues to promote my unique art abilities in the world around me, even when I didn't know where I was trying to go. I suppose you could say that this amounts to me trying to find people and organizations who would acknowledge in some significant way the artistic things that come out of me. The honest turn of their attention and a sincere "Well done," of sorts. It would also seem that this acceptance would need to include their *continued* support in my artistic endeavors. And money too. Finding my *place* has been a continual task of trying to identify my type of art in the context of all the people and groups creating art around me. I suppose it relates to questions such as "So what are these creative things that keep coming out of me? What do they mean? Why is it happening? Why does it matter so much for me to get these expressions out?" and "Who are doing similar things that I can identify with?" I bring this up because, as you will see, there is no one in my family who does anything artistically the way I do. Although all of us as kids painted and drew things at school and at times at home, no one continued it as though it was a necessary part of their life. I have always had the mixed up feeling that it is a really good talent and yet very different and embarrassing at the same time. In some respects I don't even know what I'm trying to explain with my art, I just know that each creative project seems like a great idea to me. I'm not even sure how the completely different art styles that I do link up together and whether the larger masterpiece will come into view in my lifetime. I'm sure it will. I mean, I hope it will. Don't get me wrong here. I do not feel that in and of itself the production of art is a bad thing, in any way. There are certainly bad things that are done with it and I don't consider the things I do to be a part of that mess. So, I'm okay with the type of art I am producing and am not asking "Why am I doing it?" for that reason. It is a human thing. I *want* to do these things. Besides, there is a tremendous amount of satisfaction and joy after giving birth in this way. Even if, at times, it is an ugly baby. I am also led to believe that there is a place for this stuff (and me) in the art world. I just need to find it.

So I haven't found my *way* or *place* in the art world yet, but I'm convinced that this set of books can help me to do that. I need to find out *what* my art is and also *what* to *do* with it. At the time of writing this I am an unknown artist and am making no income doing it. So this is a good opportunity to analyze my past art experiences in order to understand what it all means and then consider how I will approach my artistic future. But these books (which are another work of art) aren't just for me. You'll learn things as we go along too. And you'll be entertained.

As the ball of yarn is untangled, you will see how this story takes a quantum leap into what might be referred to as my Art-DNA. (I've included a helpful index at the conclusion to make all of the connections between related subjects in order to try to get a deeper understanding of them.) As you read the tale that I'm so deftly spinning you'll be introduced to the many different people that activated my senses as I grew up and developed into the artist I am today. From unknown artists whose 1970s velvet canvases graced our living room wall to world-renowned illustrators, photographers and painters whose work I intensely analyzed and attempted to mirror as my style continued to develop. Each of these in their own way contributed to the work I do today. These books too are a collection of life events that I think also shaped my artistic outlook by the way they influenced my world-view. Although not art-related, these things changed my attitudes and goals in life, and subsequently my art. From the first time I saw a picture of the rock band KISS, to my first awareness of the opposite sex. It's all in here. From a bad experience with the drug LSD, to the night I tried to hang myself in my bedroom closet. All of these events and people, combined with a flood of consumer products; a bombardment of mass media in the form of television, movies, music, books and magazines all working together on my mind have all added up in some way to how I perceive things artistically. It's not all pretty, but it's all pretty interesting.

As I compiled these volumes I was surprised at how many different ideas, experiences and influences were taking place all around me at the same time in my life. A handful of influential directions would have been enough, but the dates on the photos, clippings and other memorabilia show that there were an unbelievable amount of things going on all at once and challenging each other for dominance in my life. An army of major persuasions funneled themselves into a wide-eyed and willing youth. From month-to-month I was assaulted by some of the most powerful images and ideas of the time, some good, some bad. It is fascinating to see what came out at the other end.

As you read this book, please know that whatever negative things unfold within its pages (and there are a number of them), know that they have all been worked out now successfully. Know too that I have become well adjusted in the world around me, whether that be in the world of art or in the one that we are all finding our way through together.

Signed, Larry Hunt. Tuesday, November 12, 2013.