

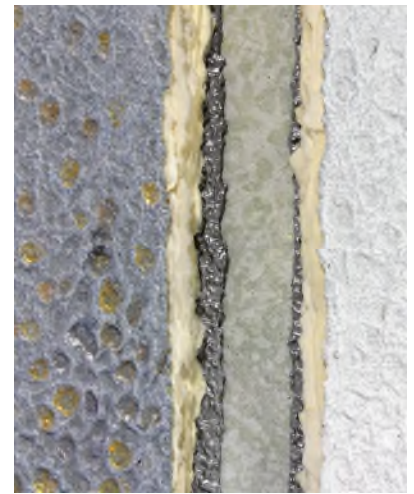
why ART MATTERS?

I admit, sometimes I'm in our beautiful studio away from the hub-bub of the world, or at an art show waiting for someone to connect with our art and want it in their environment, that I think "I need to be doing something more "important".

I know what happens to me when I'm creating art, when I see others art, when I watch their acting and their singing. There is a connection to humanness. Sometimes even an escape, or a grounding, or simply "I'm glad to be alive!" Even those in the poorest countries create beauty with what they have or adorn themselves in many ways.

Here is a partial list from John Hopkins School of Education by Dee Dickinson.

- *They are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness.*
- *They integrate mind, body, and spirit.*
- *They provide opportunities for self-expression, bringing the Inner world into the outer world of concrete reality.*
- *They develop both independence and collaboration.*
- *They make it possible to use personal strengths in meaningful ways and to bridge into understanding sometimes difficult abstractions through these strengths.*
- *They improve academic achievement -- enhancing test scores, attitudes, social skills, critical and creative thinking.*



Detail from "Welcome Home"



"Another Entrance" 40" x 40"

I can't say I fully understand the "why" of how it works, but I have experienced the "yes" of how it works.

So for now, I will continue to connect with beauty, continue to connect with the Great Creator and continue to make art.

So glad you are here to enjoy!

from John Hopkins Article

http://education.jhu.edu/PD/newhorizons/strategies/topics/Arts%20in%20Education/dickinson_why_arts.htm