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## WHAT IS ART?

Art is the result of a state of transcendence, where one's ideal of aesthetic, philosophical and existential exploration reaches a moment of enlightenment and the representation of life is conveyed with utmost clarity and inspiration. Art is an act of offering but also of personal fulfilment, conveying, as it does, one's vision of reality that is produced after vigorous soul-searching. In that sense, art is a chance to communicate, to make aware of, to raise or resolve perennial ontological questions. At the same time, art is also the product of a coming together of craft, beauty and perspective. It is a moment of perfect alignment of the outer world and the inner impulse to create and to share. It is the material embodiment of talent, perception and a need to express.

As a theatre director I can make art happen when I am able to create the circumstances for individual threads of creativity to interweave freely. As a primary art of synthesis, theatre is possible only when each of the contributing agents is invited and inspired to grasp a common goal, pursuing something that is about to happen but not yet knowing what form it will come in. Fundamentally, a piece of theatre can become art when its essential ingredients — acting, scenography and costume, lighting, sound and movement — meet at a place of vision and focus, where they will eventually blend into a unified whole featuring its own meaningful autonomy.

The impulse to create art comes from a place of mental and emotional turmoil: something or someone prompts the big life questions to (re)surface, demanding our immediate engagement. Art is born when, thanks to a defining moment of need or a catalytic revelation, imagination, inquiry and clarity of mind come together, generating limitless possibilities for interpretation.