

## Are You a Patron?

1. Have you attended an arts event or venue in the last six months? (live music concert, museum or gallery, play, dance performance, independent film, etc.)
2. Do you have a favorite art form that you particularly enjoy experiencing and learning about?
3. Do you occasionally attend different types of arts events/venues, besides your favorite?
4. Do you have a favorite artist or arts organization whose work you follow closely?
5. Do you ever spread the word about a particular arts event or artist?
6. Do you sometimes look through the Arts section in newspapers or magazines?
7. Have you financially supported an arts organization or artist (outside of purchasing tickets) in the last year?
8. Do you know an artist, are you involved in his/her life, and are you actively supporting his/her career?

Total answered "yes" \_\_\_\_\_

Learn more at:

<https://ransomfellowship.org/article/engaging-the-arts-are-you-a-patron-discernment-exercise/>

## Book List

Andrew Peterson, *Adorning the Dark: Thoughts on Community, Calling, and the Mystery of Making*

Andy Crouch, *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*

Edith Schaeffer, *The Hidden Art of Homemaking*

Elissa Weichbrodt, *Redeeming Vision: A Christian Guide to Looking at and Learning from Art*

Francis Schaeffer, *Art and the Bible*

Jeffrey Overstreet, *Through a Screen Darkly: Looking Closer at Beauty, Truth and Evil in the Movies*

Jerram Barrs, *Echoes of Eden: Reflections on Christianity, Literature, and the Arts*

Madeline L'Engle, *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*

Makoto Fujimura, *Art and Faith: A Theology of Making*

Makoto Fujimura, *Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life*

Ned Bustard (editor), *It Was Good: Making Art to the Glory of God*

Russ Ramsey, *Rembrandt Is in the Wind: Learning to Love Art through the Eyes of Faith*

Stephen Roach, *Naming the Animals: An Invitation to Creativity*

William Edgar, *Created and Creating: A Biblical Theology of Culture*



Find all of these on this Amazon Book List

## Should Christians Be Patrons?

### Lordship of Christ

The arts and the sciences do have a place in the Christian life—they are not peripheral. For a Christian, redeemed by the work of Christ and living within the norms of Scripture and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the lordship of Christ should include an interest in the arts. A Christian should use these arts to the glory of God, not just as tracts, mind you, but as things of beauty to the praise of God. An artwork can be a doxology in itself.

Francis Schaeffer, *Art and the Bible*

### Seat at the table

The best way to help the world is through the arts.

Tim Keller

We need a general rediscovery of the arts in the context of the church. This is badly needed because the arts are the leading edge of culture.

Leland Ryken

Christians cannot abdicate the arts to secular society. We must consume, study, and participate in the arts if we are to have a seat at the table. Whether it has a religious theme or strikes us as irreligious, we must be patrons if we are to have an impact on how the world interprets and responds to the arts.

Ted Scofield

### Caring for artists

In my experience the Christian painter or poet, sculptor or dancer, is regularly regarded as something of a curiosity... But the idea that they are, or could be, anything more than that—that they have a vocation to re-imagine and re-express the beauty of God, to lift our sights and change our vision of reality—is often not even considered.

N.T. Wright

The failure of many churches to understand artists leads to their failure to care for artists... The thinking of church leaders needs to be creative if they want to minister to creative people. They are different. They are poorly understood. Their lives don't fit the typical mold. If we're serious about their lives in Christ, we must step up in our thinking, strategy, and care...

We ought to make ministry to such people the first step in reaching the subcultures to which they belong. Let's put a stop to the typical phenomenon of artists being pushed to the fringe of church life. After all, the first step toward growth is the prevention of decline. Make sure we're not losing artists before we turn our attention to reaching out to unchurched artists. These are the people God has already given us, so we must fulfill our responsibility before God to make sure they are built up in Christ and become mature in the faith, so that they can live their lives for Christ as artists.

Con Campbell, *Outreach and the Artist*

## How Should We Then Live?

### To Artists: “Love the Church”

True artists purpose to love the church despite indifference or opposition to their work. Though indifference is their enemy, they separate it from the brother or sister who is seduced by it. They are eager to find their place in the Body and do not consider themselves exempt from fellowship and church stewardship responsibilities. They love the church and do all they can to build it up, for how can you love Christ and hate his church?

Charlie Peacock

### To the Church: “Help artists flourish both creatively and spiritually”

God does want us to use these [artistic] gifts. We are not to be ashamed of them, or hide them, or consider other gifts and callings more worthy than artistic creativity. And we are not to use them in ways that dishonor him, to build or worship (physical or metaphorical) idols. Artists will use their gifts—the church must help them discover what outworking glorifies God and what promotes idolatry in any form. So one reason the church should be involved in the arts is to follow God’s command to glorify him by expressing and valuing our creativity as a community, and to guide those who have received particular creative gifts (like Bezalel and Oholiab) toward honoring God through them.

Luann Jennings

Former Director of Arts Ministries, Redeemer NYC

### To all: “We need artists”

When you listen to great music, you can’t believe life is meaningless. Your heart knows what your mind is denying. We need Christian artists because we are never going to reach the world without great Christian art to go with great Christian talk.

Tim Keller, *It Was Good: Making Art to the Glory of God*

## Creative Conversations

- **July 13 – Book Discussion of *Redeeming Vision* by Elissa Weichbrodt;** led by Jane Boutwell (email [jmcboutwell@gmail.com](mailto:jmcboutwell@gmail.com) for more info)
- **August 18 – Readings of Poetry, Prose, and Book Excerpts;** led by Susanne Thompson (email [the\\_nest@bellsouth.net](mailto:the_nest@bellsouth.net) for more info)
- **Upcoming – Film Discussions;** led by Luke Brodine (email [luke@intown.org](mailto:luke@intown.org) with interest; these will not be publicized at first, so email is the only way to find out when we’re meeting)
- **Tuesday nights (ongoing) – Christianity & Literature;** led by Tricia Agan (email [tricia.agan@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.agan@gmail.com) for more info)

### To learn about upcoming events

- Email [luke@intown.org](mailto:luke@intown.org) to be put on a list that will share upcoming events to engage with the arts together.