Our Authentic Aliveness Creates Our Identity

By Melissa Van Cleave

Describing one's self can be a task involving many different facets of the decorative masks that make up the duality and ego parts of self. The challenge is to recognize the intentions and desires that our stories truly reflect – whether through our words or our thoughts.

The messages from which we take action can change our reality on a moment-to-moment basis. By surrendering our attachment to what was and instead co-creating with Source, a different and continually renewed identity is birthed. By dreaming and living our uniqueness, we open the next unknown doorway to what is to unfold. Our authentic aliveness creates our identity by re-weaving the parts of us that are ready to be transformed. We feel joy and excitement in creating a new persona of passion.

As an erotic artist of the divine sacred feminine who paints nudes – fully alive nudes – I must be a sensual, sexy woman in her pure divine form. I must be a woman who feels sensual, who feels desired, and who is connected to her soulful erotic body of creation. My body must feel all of life around me like a flower in full bloom radiating all its glory. I must personally be a painting of creation that carries no shame, no blame, and no bondage that keeps my body tied to judgments of perfection.

I have moved through layer upon layer of belief structures. I grew up in a very conservative town which was proudly labeled "the city of churches." My family environment was extremely protective. Obviously, the last thing my father thought his "little baby girl" would grow up to be was an erotic artist who painted and wrote about passionate NUDES!

I have toyed with my falsehood of beliefs too long. This half-on, half-off approach does not work. It means my duality nature is controlling my inner light. It is like driving a car with one foot on the gas and one foot on the brake. When I believe, I give the car more gas; when I doubt, I hit the brake and slow down.

Feeling one's dream become a reality is very exciting. Whenever the mind tells us we do not deserve to feel such joy, out of nowhere emerge events that pull the rug from beneath us. Turning our passion on and off numbs our awareness and shrinks the energy source that supports us. Day after day we wait for our creative inspiration to return. We busy ourselves with things that keep us away from our passion. Ruminating thoughts continue to rain doubt on our parade.

Does this sound familiar? Different day, different story, but the same feeling? Those little thoughts that constantly churn in our head are very powerful. They manifest a reactive course. They communicate our intentions to ourselves and to our universe. And we rob our soul of its dream unless we let *it* tell our story.

So, who am I yet to become? My life is, first of all, my creative painting. Everything I learn then becomes infused in each creation I bring to my canvas. Living in the mystery, living in the unknown, changes my reality. I welcome my



soulful energy. I want it to recreate my passion. I say YES, change my perceptions.

Melissa Van Cleave resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she creates personal power pieces, soul paintings and writings for a soulful purpose. Her work is sold worldwide. Melissa is a frequent visitor to Maui and is accepting new commission work internationally. Call for a consultation. She can be reached at 260.414.4086 or visit www.visionsofecstasy.com.

