

Passion Transforms, Unveils Exhilaration

By Melissa Van Cleave

Every moment I paint, I feel passion deep inside my body and experience the sacred wildness of my purpose. This zestful energy works through me. It helps me risk and take action from the energy of this passionate artist in absolutely everything I do.

Life is our blank canvas. Everything we do, say or think goes on the canvas. It manifests in our daily life. Outcomes differ depending upon "who is home" inside us. Ego keeps me small, but the soul guides me to larger perspectives where things happen... where new life begins. The awe and wonderment of living my erotic life blossoms a new level of joy. I have the courage to face the next piece of my resistance that is ready to be transformed. A deeper level of exhilaration is unveiled in my core. A new layer of my projection can be infused differently.

Learning this process has not, by any means, been easy for me. I have fallen. I have suffered many bruises. I have screamed at myself... angry because I repeat my mistakes, because I run from unpleasant situations, because I shut down and refuse to face things. Such reactions are a powerful feedback mechanism; they tell us we are *not* in our soul-body.

Pulling an honesty card is not ego enhancing. Releasing what we *think* something should be is the challenge. It is not that we have done things wrong. Not at all. The important thing is that we not take on shame, guilt, or blame for whatever challenge is facing us. The minute we think we *have it*; life unfolds the deep, dark, ugly



part that is hiding in the crevices of our ego. The important thing is to have compassion for who we are at that moment, to surrender our attachment and to risk being reweaved. Ask the soul-body to show you how to do whatever is

needed. A new seed will crack open. This releases emotions that are exhilarating. Such is the erotic passion about which I paint and write.

This excitement guides me into living my erotic passion every day. It is the driving force of all that I can be. The secret is feeling the aliveness inside my body... the juice of my passion... the risk of going deeper... the courage to face issues at hand... the freedom for my body to feel more.

In my creative process, I paint empowered visions of women in the authentic beauty of their core. I portray the true erotic essence of feeling that exists both inside and outside the body. To do this I must first free whatever is preventing my own body from feeling. As an artist, the intensity and willingness to transform whatever needs to change in my life is what makes my work empowering.

Through this process, my paintings have helped me feel the juiciness in my body... freeing my boundaries so I can love all of me, my perfections and imperfections alike. I can then bring this inner exhilaration into the world. If we depend on outer structures to ignite our passion, the passion dissipates. True passion must start from within us.

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 and she is accepting new commissions. She can be reached at 260.414.4086 or at www.visionsofecstasy.com.

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