

P.O. Box 10
Rajneeshpuram, Oregon
July 27, 1983

To Whom It May Concern.

I am a disciple of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh with a background in the Visual Arts and was active in the New York scene during the 1970s. I worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1971 to 1978 as an artist-consultant and took part in the creation of community exhibitions and workshops in painting drawing and sculpture. My work as an artist drew inspiration from various traditions as well as modern European and American masters. Between 1979 and 1981 I created a body of approximately 50 works in metal which reflect a personal synthesis of Modern and Pre-Columbian sculpture.

The link between Religion and Art is inseparable in practically any period in the history of man. In fact it can be very easily proved that, without Christianity, we couldn't have any existing evidence of Western European art in its multiple manifestations. From the Early Florentine masters to the Renaissance with its monume. splendor or the intimate poetic paintings of the modern French masters Odilon Redon and Georges Roualt or the Chapel in Southern France designed and painted by Henri Matisse. In the East we find the same relationship as seen in the great

Hindu temples and religious sculptures in India. The birth of Buddhism created an explosion in the arts of China and Japan and touched on every aspect of human life. Twentieth Century America revolutionized the world with the surge of the New York School during the 1950's. These artists created for the first time an autonomous American Art. In their instance, because their imagery is not realistic, the religious content is not obvious. There is an internalized vision, an abstraction. The religious roots are more personal, not out of any particular tradition. In fact they are anti-tradition. Many of them were drawn to Eastern art and Eastern religion. Mark Tobey studied Japanese calligraphy. Franz Kline created a very personal and powerful art drawing inspiration from Zen brush painting. Ad Reinhardt approached his paintings as a Zen meditation. Barnett Newman created a new concept of the stations of the Cross where the fields of color contained within the rectangle convey a deep religious feeling. Mark Rothko did abstract murals to be used as contemplative religious paintings inside a church.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has the most profound understanding of art and the most profound understanding of religion. Often in his

books he mentioned that for modern man it would be possible to create a synthesis of Art and Science. This could be the greatest possible harmony - poetry and technology coming together. America with its great technological resources could provide the perfect climate for this Living Master to create the new spirituality in which this ultimate human flowering can happen.

I personally feel that art is bridged between the material and the spiritual. The artist is someone who penetrates the spiritual and translates his experience into form.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is a Religious Master also a Master who knows the alchemy of the spiritual and the poetic. Here in his presence, in his silence I feel myself coming more and more in touch with my own source of creativity, understanding beyond words the deeper sources that I have as an artist and as a human being.

Sincerely

Swami Prem Kauri