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## To Whom It may Concern

I am writing both as a professional artist and United States citizen in support of the INS application of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh for the designated status of 'Exceptional Ability in the Arts and Sciences'. As a disciple of Bhagwan and resident of Rajneeshpuram this letter will undoubtedly be tainted with the cries and whispers of love, echoing with the faint mormurings of the heart He has awakened... rather than the cold analytic lore of scientific objectivity. So be it. Art itself withers beneath the microscopic eye of logic, that scaly armor of dead passion, and the true artist is a man deeply wedded to and in pursuit of the silent mystic beckonings of the heart; he is the Orphic poet of the Unspoken, a flute on the lips of the Beyond... the real artist, in whatever medium he works, is always seeking to make tangible the intangible, to mold the Unknown into an aesthetics of worldly beauty. So, aesthetically you must allow me my excesses... for as the poet William Blake aptly said "the road to genius is paved in excess", and I am writing here for a man of true polymathic genius - Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is a mystic poet the calibre of Dante, Kabir, Rumi and St. John of the Cross; a metaphysician of vast philosophic depth and insight; an unrivaled psychologist whose therapeutic and meditational techniques are being used world-wide throughout the spectrum of psychoanalyt schools and an Artist of such grace and silence that His very presence is a fountain of Artistic Inspiration...

Indeed, it was the rhythm and ~~Crone~~ <sup>Crone</sup> that whispered in silence behind His words and the ~~crystalline~~ <sup>crystalline</sup> of His very gestures that first

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attracted me as a professional artist, heretofore caged away in the Ivory towers of Academia... I graduated in the Spring of 1972 with a B.A. in poetry from the University of California at Santa Cruz, working professionally for several years thereafter writing, acting and directing in Theater under the tutorial wing of George Hitchcock, founder and editor of the prestigious KAYAK literary quarterly and Professor Emeritus at UCSC... I then graduated 'cum laude' from UCLA with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Playwriting and twice the first prize recipient, in 1977 and 1978, of the West Coast Intercollegiate Playwriting Awards. I've also had several productions of my plays staged at the UCLA Playhouse and the UCSC Barn Theater and several published in the Westwind literary quarterly. It was actually during these last product years in graduate school that I encountered the works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh - a turning point that immediately revolutionized my life. Artistically, theater was degenerating more and more into an uninspired, conventional meatmarket of worn-out plots stuffed into sentimental burlesque and paraded before a bored, yawning public - the artistic spontaneity and heat-blood that pulsed in the works of Goethe, Wittgenstein, Schiller and Shakespeare had disappeared from the theatrical arena, a certain aesthetic sensitivity had set in - I found I was suffering in an artistic field that heretofore had inspired me. Yet, in reading the inspirational works of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, in using his unique meditational techniques, in discipleship and, most significantly, in worshipping for the last few years in his presence as a resident of Rajneeshpuram my artistic emberence, my former delight in creativity itself has returned a thousandfold... His genius, his love, his clarity, his sheer delight in existence itself is his presence, is his spiritual guidance, is overwhelmingly manifest in his daily 'Satsang' drives and the five annual festival 'Darshans' - events that can only be understood by the heart in the silent language of love. - His Silence is a benediction, it is the

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highest communion - words would only be barriers when this Love reaches out... Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is an artist's Artist, a gardener of budding mystics; His every word is poetry - one only has to hear it! His every gesture is dance, one only has to see it! Bhagwan has never written a play as far as I know but His presence and guidance has inspired countless plays through me... His poetic writings, published in over 300 books are seeds of artistic regeneration when read with the heart... and from here at Rajneeshpuram - this beautiful, flourishing garden - is being in the Heart and delight of His energy field, a palpable ocean of Love is felt by those who commune with Him in the language of laughter and tears. To not acknowledge this incredible phenomenon of a man as not genius, as not enlightened poet, seer and spiritual Master is to have no eyes and no ears is to never have ventured into the heart of His work - Rajneeshpuram - and seen + felt this miraculous flowering... Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh is a blessing to the USA, and certainly to Oregon in every aspect - Materialistic Artistically and spiritually - and not to see this is to subtly wish to remain blind... Bhagwan's work is His lovers, His disciples, and He is the Heart of Rajneeshpuram and His silent Presence is the blood of Love that flows through us all in sheer creativity... I hope you feel this, for this is the real marrow of Art - and the heart is the only touchstone of Creativity.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Coleman