

Artistic Philosophy

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We have no art. We do everything as well as we can.
- Balinese saying

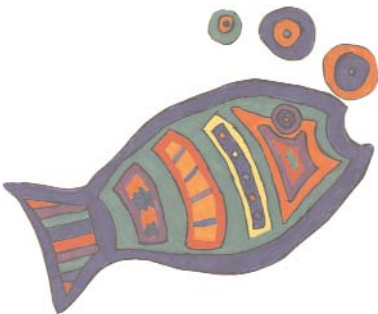
As a social worker and world traveler, I have been blessed with close contact with Australia's Aboriginal people, the Filipino and Balinese traditional cultures of Asia, and the Lakota, Hopi and Navajo people of North America. My travels have also taken me on extensive tours of the newer Western cultures of Europe, Australia and now, the United States.

I have consistently noted that the traditional cultures sing, dance, and tell stories on a daily basis and are overwhelmingly happier than so-called "Western" cultures. Importantly, I think they have more time to play, particularly with their children. In fact, time itself is multi-dimensional, compared to the very linear Western time concept we march to today.

"And the hurrying people daunt me
and their pallid faces haunt me,
As they shoulder one another in their rush
and nervous haste,
with their eager eyes and greedy
and their stunted forms and weedy,
For the townsfolk have no time to grow,
they have no time to waste."

A.B. "Banjo" Paterson, "Clancy of The Overflow"

Children are held in very high esteem in traditional cultures. In Bali the children are seen as direct descendent from Heaven. For the Lakota, the children are the wisest, as they are closer to the Earth. Filipino culture taught me "look to the children, you will find the answers." Aboriginal people "spoil" their children by Western standards. Children remind us daily what it is to be human and these cultures honor this and ritualized this understanding. Similarly, they learned lessons from observing the animals and all the natural world.



For children, business is to play. In fact, play is very serious business for children. For Aboriginal people, business is ceremony or ritualized play. When I visited traditional Aboriginal communities and found the place deserted and asked where is everybody, I was often told "They're out bush doing business." Aboriginal people sing, dance, and paint the plants and animals to ensure they will continue in abundance. They "sing up the land to make it happy," as my