

“FROM WASTE, TO GOLD”

INSPIRATION INSTIGATION INNOVATION

WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION

My family were refugees. They lost everything during the war, including five children. Anything that they took in their hands, they doubled and tripled. The three children that lived, must be nourished, and protected.

We were loved unconditionally. What is more precious than a child?

Our parents taught us to respect and make good use of everything we had or were given. Nothing was ever discarded. My father gently reminded us that, whatever we possessed was “gold”.

During all my childhood, and indeed to the present day, I converted, whatever I had, into something that will recall its original worth and value. Its voice!

It always turned out a different thing altogether. It had to...

But, ‘the more it changed, the more it became the same thing!’

This process brought fluidity to my creative leanings. The more I practiced converting anything, the more I was in control of my process.

Many more creations, often surprises, materialised and I was enlightened.

I was encouraged by its newness to carry on.

Now, on this beautiful and wonderful planet in which we live, we offend the richness and the plenty that it is giving us, by not only misusing it, but also by throwing it out.

To me, discarding anything is an anathema. It hurts my psyche and drains my sentiment, and makes me very sad, and guilty and very angry, and highly disappointed.

I am NOT advocating, or proposing a halt to newness and invention. I am simply offering to re-use that little bit which is left over, to give it a new life and grace.

It’s newness in its own right.

All creators, makers, artists, musicians...are guided by a light. The emotional truth.

I value that little boy over there on the side, looking out of the window.

He is lonely, unnoticed, forlorn, seemingly a non-starter. Not done much to be counted.

ACTION

Our workshop is a short 8-hour day. In those eight hours, let us focus on turning everything we have with us, into gold.

Each of you is a craftsman, a designer, a maker, and an artist. I would like you all, to bring to the table your own competence and experience. Bring also some of your own left over materials...anything that can be used.

Working in a highly concentrated, dense space of time, consider your strategy.

To begin with, empty your head of all you know. Unlearn it. It will come back when you are ready to invite it into a new arena.

Use any medium to express yourself and begin the flow of thought. Draw, paint, collage, stitch, paste, and mould any material in an immediate and fast track method, in order to loosen the knots.

Actually, we want to make a 'new material' out of the left over 'waste' and let it lead us into a new use within our own field of product. We will allow it to seep its way into a new idea altogether, which in turn will be put into a newer, more exciting element of our creation.

In fact, what I am saying is, to exit from our comfort zone and daringly enter a space of fresh danger!

What is my role in all this?

Well, let us start from the achievements derived throughout one's life. Specialisations in theory and practice have been harvested through a dedication to learning from all and every angle, with a huge passion and desire to reach Excellence. Imparting this through teaching is one continuous "workshop" of love.

A professor applies all his attributes continuously to his student, individually patiently and methodically, to guide him safely beyond his capabilities.

"When Love and skills work together, expect a masterpiece"