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The Power of Art

“Through our own creative experience, we came to know that the real tradition in art is not housed only in museums and art galleries and in great works of art; it is innate in us.”

-Lawren Stewart Harris, member of the Group of Seven

Oftentimes when one thinks of art, famous paintings appear in mind – potentially the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci or The Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh. Without question, these are tremendous works of art, yet the concept of *the arts* cannot be encompassed by any painting. Art cannot possibly be defined by any drawing nor simplified by any sketch.

Rather, art lives within us and between us. It lives in our beating hearts, our pulsing blood, our dreaming minds, and it accordingly shapes the world surrounding us.

Art feeds culture, culture feeds art – it’s a dog-eat-dog-world in the absolute best sense. It’s a cycle that we are all inextricably part of, and to substitute ourselves from it is impossible. Art exists everywhere we look – in homes, furniture, fashion, music, language, and even technology. However, art does not merely *exist*. Art shifts social norms, builds relationships, breaks barriers, and heals parts of ourselves that nothing else can quite heal. The arts give the world colour, just as the sun gives us warmth.

We can’t possibly get away from consuming and creating art, yet there are many creators who don’t have the platform to share their work.

Here at the Art Gallery of Algoma, we bring light to these creators. Our galleries consistently showcase local artists, often holding various events so that artists and gallery patrons can meet face to face. Moreover, our gift shop features exclusively local goods such as books, pottery, wall art, and jewelry, making it easier than ever to directly support surrounding artists.

Yet we acknowledge that we are not the start nor end of art. Art predates every gallery in existence and will continue long after every gallery has vanished, because at its most fundamental, art is not something that can be seen or touched. It is a warmth, a light everlasting, a dare to imagine a beyond that we have not insofar reached.

Nevertheless, galleries such as the AGA are important – essential, even – because we stand as trophy halls to those who have dared to imagine.

Art is an internal adventure, and perhaps a visit to your local art gallery can help spark that adventure.