

The Visionary Genre

- * Visionary art is an eternal genre or sensibility that is always present regardless of the predominance of the prevailing mode of time-oriented, that is to say, perception-oriented, art.
- * The term "visionary" is not the superlative of an adjective that would be used to describe some superbly executed form of time-oriented art; neither can it be used to distinguish one period of time-oriented art from another; nor can it be a designation of the future. But it does refer to a connection with time through the eternal now of the past, present and the future.
- * In this context time-oriented art is that art which provides solutions to the problem of "how-it-feels-to-be-alive-at-the-present-moment" by means of its logic of forms and expressive modes.
- * While many discontinuities are experienced within the history of the physical universe, to the visionary artist continuity is restored by recognizing that the physical and the metaphysical aspects of the universe are one.
- * While ideologically not connected to any religious group, the formology of visionary art, like the mystical

experience, has been used by all religious and spiritual groups throughout history.

- * The relationships between visionary and time-oriented artists throughout history have never been those of mutually scornful rivals, but rather of effective and necessary allies. The late nineteenth-century French visionary painter, Gustave Moreau, held a professorship at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and was considered a teacher of genius. The great time-oriented baroque architect Francesco Borromini based his revolutionary buildings on motifs derived from various occult symbols, such as the interlocking hexagram and the three-dimensional equiangular spiral.

- * All visionary art seeks oneness. Differences become a point of disappointment. Ideally, there should be one visionary painting, and true collaboration rather than manipulation in consort.

- * The forms of visionary art transcend the various artistic strategies that either encourage or suppress form over content or content over form. "Abstraction" versus "figuration" is a contemporary example of what is avoided by the visionary sensibility. In essence visionary art avoids, on the one hand, the aesthetic anesthesia of formalism, and, on the other hand, the mindless kitsch of

contentalism to become a true symbolism. It is a genre which revives symbols, in which the symbol and that which is symbolized become one in a felt outpouring of energy.