CREATORS ON CREATING

Awakening and Cultivating the Imaginative Mind

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Alfonso Montuori
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What is the Essence of
CREATIVITY

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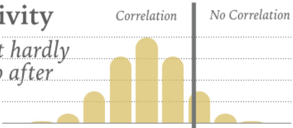
CLEAR PROCESSES IN NATURE

The more unmistakable and more organized the specific case, the more it can reveal about the general phenomenon. Specific knowledge transfers into an understanding of a process everywhere.

IQ and Creativity

Correlation, but hardly any relationship after 115-120



Willingness to take the risk of being wrong or perhaps subjected to ridicule, punishment, or loss

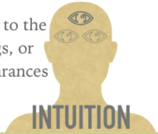
I'm OK with mistakes

CREATIVITY

Motives & Personality Traits

SEE THINGS IN A NEW WAY

willing to challenge assumptions, make connections



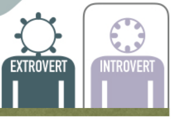
INTUITION

Ability to see to the heart of things, or beyond appearances

INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGMENT

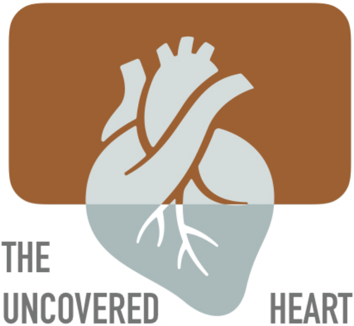
Thinking for oneself, resistance to conformity, even rebelliousness against authority

More often associated with creativity



DESIRE TO CREATE

> *What really counts is to strip the soul naked. Painting or poetry is made as we make love; a total embrace, prudence thrown to the wind nothing held back.*
>
> — *Joan Mirò*



THE UNCOVERED HEART

SECTION AUTHORS

Henry Miller

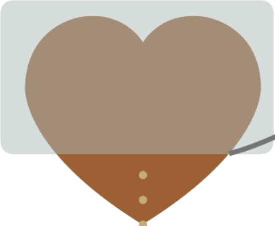
Federico Fellini

Pamela Travers

Anna Halprin

A. E. Housman

Rainer Maria Rilke



uncovering the vital center of the self

VULNERABILITY

An elegance and grace that invites the heart of others to do so too

STRENGTH

A strength that lies in that ability to open itself to itself

> “When the heart speaks, it may seem unreasonable. But if we listen without losing our heads, we may find in that what lies ahead is a new and better way of living”

THE OPENED MIND

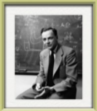
If I ever feel I am getting to the point where I’m playing it safe, I’ll stop. That’s all I can tell you abut how I plan for the future

— Miles Davis

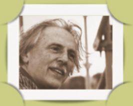
> Dare to be naïve.
>
> — R. Buckmister Fuller

SECTION AUTHORS

Cathy Johnson


Richard Feynman

Kary Mullis


J. G. Bennett

William Butler Yeats

Annie Dillard

Remain open to the contradictory

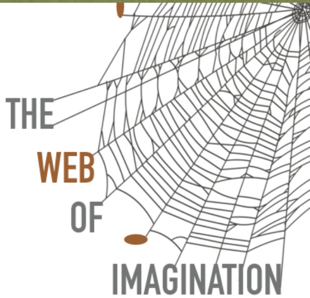
the creative mind is both **full** and **empty**

CHILDLIKE CURIOSITY & WONDER

Journey into the unfamiliar

GENERATIVE MIND

full of ideas
and insights



THE WEB OF IMAGINATION

> Do I contradict myself?
>
> Very well then I contradict myself,
> (I am large, I contain multitudes.)
>
> — Walt Whitman

SECTION AUTHORS

Mary Shelley

Carl G. Jung

Italo Calvino

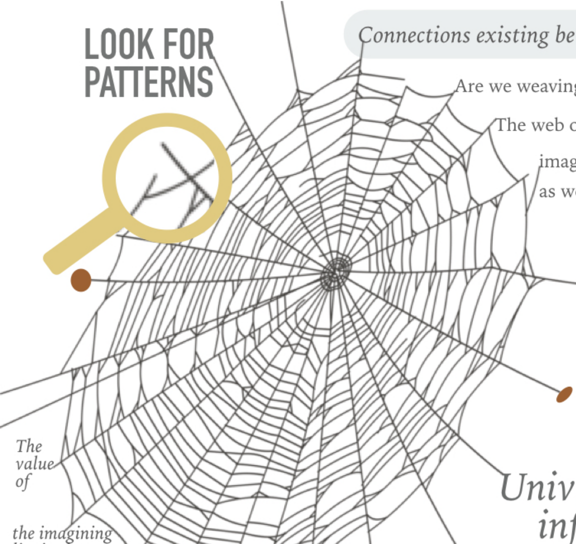
Michel Foucault

Marion Milner

Virginia Woolf

Mabel Dodge Luhan

LOOK FOR PATTERNS



Connections existing between all things.

Are we weaving a web that weaves us?

The web of life and the web of
imagination are intertwined
as we create

the whole contains
within it a tendency
towards unity

The
value
of

the imagining

Universal pattern
inform creative

lies in the

ORIGINALITY
STRENGTH

and of the pattern created

symbols

THE CREATIVE ECOLOGY

> “Men work together” I told him
> from the heart, whether they
> work together or apart.
>
> — Robert Frost

SECTION AUTHORS

Maurice Sendak

Maya Angelou

Ingmar Bergman

Sidney Bechet

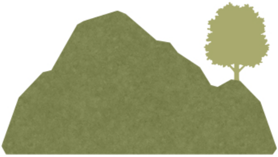
Tony Kushner

THE HEALING MIND
Dr. Irving Oyle

Irving Oyle

N. Scott Momaday

Brian Eno



CREATOGENIC ECOLOGIES

favorable to creativity and generative

CREATOPATHIC ECOLOGIES

pathological and destructive

Paradox

work individually | work cooperatively

Friendships

are an important part of creative human ecologies

almost all creation is a collaboration

like all phenomena of nature…

creativity lives and dies within an ecology

THE DEDICATION TO MASTERY

> The experience of doing anything well — from the minor scale to the Hammerklavier Sonata — is an irreplaceable event of the spirt.
>
> — Robert Grudin

> Work is more fun than fun
>
> — Noel Coward

SECTION AUTHORS

David Ogilvy

Leonardo de Vinchi

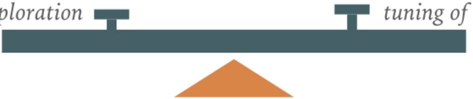
Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

Muriel Rukeyser

Igor Stravinsky

Frank Zappa

Eugen Herrigel



freedom and exploration

disciplined find-tuning of creative

BALANCE

Creativity, the sublime expression of human freedom, needs discipline and routine.

It takes time and energy and organization to produce something great

Creators practice incessantly

THE COURAGE TO GO NAKED

Low
Medium
High

RISK

He was a bold man
that first ate an oyster.

— Jonathan Swift

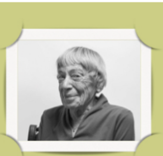
SECTION AUTHORS

Isadora Duncan

Karen Finley

Laurence Oliver

Mat Callahan



Ursula K Le Guin

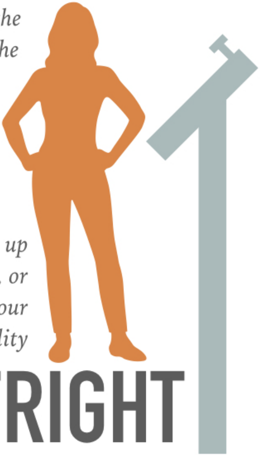
CREATIVITY INVOLVES A DEGREE OF RISK TAKING

Taking our creative ideas out

of the shelter of the studio, the workshop, the laboratory, or the manuscript

and the sending them out into the public exposure of our creative ideas because we then feel naked in front of the others

and believe we may end up scorned, rejected, or laughed in our vulnerability



STAGE FRIGHT

Things we create are special to creator

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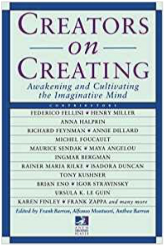

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Infographic by Jacob Campbell, see website - https://jacobrcampbell.com/