

Here is a brief summation of what Kokoschka awakened in my sleeping soul :

- Art has a mission to perform, it should be a means of communication between people, the same purpose as language.
- I do not believe in “art for art’s sake” – a pretty package but empty inside!
- A painting should be a means of establishing contact with others.
- The artist has a responsibility to envision and embrace the whole world in a spirit of love – to see and rejoice in the grand unity of creation.
- One paints for the spiritually starving; for an audience of the blind. A good painter should be able to paint anything – but a great painter is the servant of compulsions which are ordained by the very structure of the soul. Artists are not interested in policies but in values – this is our field of battle.
- I believe in the miracle of the great blinding moment of illumination when the human spirit, radiating light and laughter – joy and love – nourishes the intuition. When your spirit trembles with joy then art will find its true form and place, and the artist can play like a fountain without strife, without even trying.
- Art has no intention, that is to say no theology, no theory or system. Art is a purifying factor. It preaches nothing. Its essence is joy and love which unravels the tensions, relaxes the soul. The secret of arts healing power is in the viewer and not the artist. The only measure is reaction!
- The one unchangeable thing in a world of change is still today the human gift of extending the boundaries of the human spirit ever wider. And, here lies the vocation of the creative artist, which is to guard his or her insight into the purposes of human activity and into the purposes of their art.
- Why should the artist always be trying to saturate the world with his or her own anguish? How thin the fare is which modern art supplies to hungry viewers.
- Artists have not become desperate enough, determined enough, somewhere at the heart of things artists are still lazy of spirit. By a force of will, we must force the lock, knock down the door in order to become the poet, the artist, the darer!
- People may travel round the world and colonize the end of the earth – and yet never hear the singing of the universe.
- Through expressing compassion and joy art creates a possibility for others to experience joy and happiness – and this is a real service to mankind.