

From the Editor



Loss and Creation

The fleeting nature of life is really the impetus for much of what we do. As horrible and painful as death is, it drives us to make and remake big decisions, to make and remake ourselves—to create. A state with no change, with no end, is not a journey and, therefore, provides little interest and less meaning. Stasis, one might even consider, is a bit like heaven but also a bit like hell.

Creation matters most in light of destruction, or what some might call deconstruction and rebirth. And creation is messy. We try; we test; we stumble; we brave criticism and even abandonment and loss in order to get to someplace new, someplace better, envisioned in our all too human minds. The annals of history are littered with examples of brave minds, brave spirits, both great and common, who risked and suffered and often did not succeed—or weren't appreciated in their lifetimes.

Our existence is part of a creative force, driven by a life and death struggle and cycle, whether we like it or not. Though clearly the approach with mass appeal—likely due to its seeming safety—experiencing it all from the sidelines is an enormous waste and staying still is, ultimately, not an option. The mundane is temporal but so, especially, is the creative sublime.

I am reminded of the beginning of *The Waste Land*, T. S. Eliot's masterpiece:

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire....

When I was a kid, I struggled mightily with these words. They intrigued me but didn't actually make sense to me. I didn't understand how unbearable the experience of complete loss could render the experience of rebirth, and how important loss is to creation.

Sarah E. Lentini
Editor, President, and Publisher

About the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, Inc.

The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester is a nonprofit corporation serving arts, culture, and education in the ten-county greater Rochester region. Our mission is to strengthen the creative sector through grant programs, constituent services, and special initiatives; and to act as an advocate, planner, and funder, supporting artistic vitality and cultural diversity.

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