

True Art

By Christine Anderson

The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1

My husband is a true outdoorsman. He loves all of it – hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, camping – if it is done in the great outdoors you can count him in. He also enjoys art that reflects his love of nature. So when we had the chance to stop at the Terry Redlin Art Museum in Watertown, South Dakota, we knew we had to go!

In case you aren't familiar with Terry Redlin, he is a painter famous for his outdoor themed paintings. His work is incredible, especially to someone who couldn't successfully complete a paint-by-number. The way he can capture a sunset is amazing and his pictures of ducks and geese taking flight are so life-like it is unbelievable.

As we toured the museum I was extremely impressed with Mr. Redlin's talent, but I must admit I left the museum feeling very sad. I felt sad because I realized how long it had been since I was in awe of a real sunset. How many sunsets have there been that I didn't take the time to enjoy? Do I even pay attention when geese are flying overhead? How often do I fail to notice God's amazing creation simply because it has become common?

Why is it so incredible when painted on a canvas, but ordinary when painted on the sky?

See – Terry Redlin, for all of his human talent – is still just a copycat. God is the only one who can paint an actual sunset in the sky - no person can do that. God is the only one who can create trees, birds and flowers. A painter can paint pictures of these things, but he can't CREATE any of them.

Romans 1:20 says, *“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, **being understood from what has been made**, so that men are without excuse.* (Emphasis mine)

God has shown Himself to every single human being ever to live on this earth, including you. He shows Himself to you every day of the year through His creation...do you see Him? His majesty is displayed in the mountains, the oceans and the starry sky. His attention to detail is seen in the tiniest insect. His amazing creativity is found as you look at all the different plants, animals, insects, birds, reptiles and fish.

Has creation become common to you or do you stand in awe of the original Artist?

The next time God paints you a sunset, I pray you take a moment to drink it in. Perhaps you can even take the time to applaud the Artist. He is showing Himself to you...pay attention.

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