

Beauty II

Picking up where we left off... The later parts of the conversation reminded me of a quote by George Elliot:
<http://www.famousquotes.com/show/1022632/>

It was interesting to notice how much I still assume that art should = beauty when, as Zen points out, a lot of art has given up on beauty. Art can communicate through beauty, but it's also willing to try shock, humor, garishness, banality, decay, etc. -- not limited / not judgmental about its tactics.

Right now, I'm of the mindset that beauty that disturbs is pointing at our own samsaric tendencies -- own own habits of creating death. I'm remembering stories about sirens and absinthe drinkers. There's a danger in beauty, it can have intoxicating effects -- or maybe the more accurate way to say it is it's easy to get greedy, lost in an trance. Those kind of images seem to be pointing in both directions -- helping us to recognize beauty even in decay, but also warning against the urge to fall into a stupor.