

Sources of Inspiration

Creativity is an enigmatic aspect of human experience; it is often difficult to identify what it is that drives this impulse and the elements that inspire an artist's work. Written from the perspective of a practicing painter and writer, this post brings together ten areas that are sources for artistic inspiration. When an individual chooses a career path of design, a career that depends on a constant supply of creativity, it is important to recognize what inspires the work, and how to stimulate one's imagination.

1. Art

For design a crucial source of inspiration is the work of fellow artists, designers and creatives of every kind. Knowledge of art and design history offers a solid grounding on which to make work, while an awareness of contemporary art practice frames the context in which the work is produced. Successive art movements have evolved and thrived by artists taking inspiration from one and other work and this continues to be the case today. Indian and western painting, sculpture, embroideries are the source of inspiration for various designers.

2. Galleries & Museums

The best way to experience art is in the flesh and fortunately our galleries and museums are bursting with great works and fascinating relics. There is a mass of inspirational art to explore, from the embarrassment of riches held by national museums such as the National Museum, New Delhi, Calico Museum, Ahmedabad and National Galleries (Birla Art Gallery, Mumbai) to the cutting edge work found in small contemporary shows. Many of the finest museums are free to enter (although some charge for major exhibitions), and many offer talks and events exploring the collections. Thousands of small galleries have rolling schedules of exhibitions are the biggest source of inspiration to the designers

3. The Internet

It is easy to take the Internet for granted, but it was only a few years ago that researching artists and creative techniques would involve trawling through libraries, searching for periodicals, and attending evening classes. Today all this can be found with simple searches on Google, reading Wikipedia pages or watching YouTube clips. The Internet has revolutionized many aspects of our daily lives; for artists and designers it is an invaluable source of information and inspiration.

4. Film

Many critics and historians consider film to be the essential art form of the twentieth century. The haunting quality of silent movies, the sharp design of light and shadow in film, the garish colours of Hammer horror, the grit of American & Indian movies, the aesthetics of European art house, the startling graphics of animations, and cutting edge of 3D technologies are the source of inspiration to the fashion world.

5. Music

There are two ways in which music can be an important source of inspiration for artists and designers. Firstly, music can form the soundtrack to a designer's practice, helping create a mood and ambience to accompany the working environment. Designers can choose music to suit the project on which they are working, helping to set the pace and mood of the work. The second way that music can positively influence designers is in its packaging, performances, posters and other related imagery. Musicians often embrace strong aesthetics, high fashion and state-of-the-art design to accompany their music, inspirational stuff for those involved in the visual arts.

6. Print Ads and Posters

Film and music are prompted with often astonishing posters and print media, as are every kind of commercial product, events and even ideas. Many print ads are made by the leading designers of the day to ensure eye-catching imagery and effective communication. This media is an essential resource for the designer to find reference material and inspiration.

7. The Outdoors/ Nature

There come moments in every creative person's practice that the inspiration dries up and the ideas stagnate. At these times it is great to have a break and get outside in the fresh air, have a stroll or take a ride. Parks, Trees, Flowers, Open sky, streets and urban environments can be a source of inspiration.

8. Books

While the best way to see art is in the flesh, and so much is available on the Internet, one of the best ways to study visual work is in books. For designers the book form is the best way to present their creations. Books are available on all types of artists, history and techniques, and they remain one of the most rewarding means of finding inspiration.

9. Magazines

In common with books, magazines and periodicals are a fine way of finding inspiration. Publications such as Fashion Magazines, Art Review and Modern Painters cover the latest trends and contemporary artists, whilst also providing overviews of past movements and critical theories.

10. Life

The best art, design and creative works are directly inspired by the designer's life. Working purely stylistically and aesthetically can produce results, but it is when artists infuse their work with their personal experiences of life that the work becomes enriched and truly enlivened. Your own life experiences, Happiness, sadness, joy are the biggest source of inspiration.

In this way in the world of fashion anything can be a source of inspiration