

Keeping Good Company

by Photographer Nancy Rotenberg



As part of my creative process discussion, I present the concept of keeping good company. Good company includes those who touch and surrender to intimacy – those who dare to feed their fires. Good company willingly risk - as they unfold their souls on the dance floor of life. Good company live awareness and presence, while they experience and celebrate authenticity, beauty, and love.

I have felt gratitude and awe as I've roamed museum halls, spent hours in bookstores, listened to musicians, read poetry, admired painters, delighted in the eloquence of wordsmiths, eaten food prepared by creative souls. I have found incredible pleasures in the amazement of gardens and have honored and sanctified sacred places in nature. I have contemplated and inhaled the creative juice that is all around us – in reverence - but also hoping for even a fragment of it to erupt into a muse - carrying sparks of inspiration.

Integrating all of this inspiration into your life will nourish and enrich you, but following a spring of leading photography workshops; I realize that I have been underestimating an amazing inspirational source – my fellow photographers. I am writing this article to honor them.

Unfettered by the human fear of failure, undaunted by how and where to begin - sometimes over and over again, they are unshaken when the muse has forgotten them. These courageous souls persevere in hanging their work out on a line for display, and are resolute in making something more of the offerings of the world – creating something particular that wouldn't have existed without them.





I am so grateful for your gifts. You humble me. I feel blessed to know you. Thank you for creating unique dances and for being in harmony with the music. Thank you for helping to create a life filled with dance and love.

*And those who
were seen dancing
were thought
to be insane
by those who
could not hear
the music.*

Nietzsche

Images photographed the day after a weekend workshop at my home...inspired by the good company that I keep.

These heroes might feel in a rut, or may perceive to feel stuck in a dark hole of lack of seeing. Saboteurs and dragons that often roam the creative landscape may bombard them. With it all, they maintain determination and tenacious endurance, and stay committed to living and working – creatively.

You inspire me, my fellow photographers. By your acts of living and working creatively, you are waking up the world to potential, possibility and new perceptions. You stir my creative juices and offer a spirit and imagination to life. You offer gifts of friendship, connection, magic, and open hearts.





To learn more about Nancy Rotenberg and her newly released book, *Photography and the Creative Life*, visit her website, www.naturaltapestries.com