

*An Abundance of Light* – Josh Welker

Light, in its continuous and multidirectional radiance, sends out more information than what could ever be comprehended so that we are illuminated on all sides. Through prayer our inconsistent and disheveled minds, spirits, and bodies (I speak for myself) access that unbending and consistently bombastic radiance. “I am the light of the world.” In our daily lives I doubt any of us are slack in giving ourselves to our work. How great if we do this with a generous and abundant spirit?

I was thinking about these things because of a conversation I recently had with a person who, in her educational choices, walked an oddly similar path as I did. As a musician and an artist (we both play double bass) things came to a head for her when she realized she needed to make a choice between art or music because of the amount of time either discipline requires. She chose music. She said that it seemed too easy to be in the art world, fake it, and get into a New York gallery. I was caught off guard by this, probably because it seems like I can't get into a New York gallery to save my life. But also because as a student the thought of faking it never crossed my mind. Don't get me wrong, since then I've tried to fake it for this very purpose many times and every time it has ended in maximum embarrassment and god-awful art. Even the memory of these occasions makes me want to crawl under a rock.

Balthasar wrote “if...we are to entrust ourselves to the specifically Christian dynamism, we must proceed along the path which was correctly identified by pagan philosophy, although it could not walk along it (as Augustine often says) because it was not acquainted with the attitude of God who became man in Christ as an attitude of loving self-surrender and, indeed, humility.”

Within this Christian economy there are many necessary subversions in order to live in relationship with the initial c - the Market (which assigns monetary value to works of the human spirit) not the least. My particular approach is to pour out what abundance I have the ability to pour out. If I live according to abundance, (this is also called love - against love there is no law) I can rest in what I give in the course of my daily work. The human spirit, endlessly creative, endows itself into whatever it spends its energy on. This is why Joseph Beuys said that “everyone is an artist.” Everyone, in the force and direction of their spirit is sculpting and coloring the world no matter what sort of work they're doing. At the end of the day it is my spirit that someone is hanging on their wall.