

THE ART OFFENSIVE

This is far from any call to riotous action, but...action nonetheless; a proverbial kick in the pants.

We and our Art are in need of an effectual premeditated movement, a strategically designed war-like flanking of communities, persons, and rapidly deteriorating psyches. In other words, the “if you build it, they will come” approach to Arts advocacy and appreciation is...like...so 2009, and cracking at the seams.

This is not a notion brought on by a changing of seasons, or the casual turning of tradition. This is not the hot new fad. This is a deployment of weaponry specifically targeted to counterbalance what I can only describe as a societal cancer. And this sickness is the smartest enemy we’ve seen since...since the Predator; no...no....since the second Terminator. What was his name?

Anyway, I’m sure you see it as clear as I do. If not, you’ll find it in the headlines, in the schools, in talk radio, in the music, in dialogue (the lack thereof), in our youth, in passers-by, and in ourselves. This is a numbing sickness. Its modus operandi is to bludgeon us with a smothering indifference, causing a separation between “the people” and our impetus for anything resembling progress. This in turn allows us to yawn at instances of destruction, intolerance, hate, ignorance and the like.

What other hero than the Arts stands a better chance at delivering us from these tangible evils, this unrelenting cancer? As artists, arts directors, and passionate advocates, we should accept our roles as “generals” in bluntly utilizing the Arts, not only as means of delightful “entertainment,” creative release, or inspiration, but also as a worthy adversary to the negative elements of society we would normally look to our “supermen” to rid us of.