SPACE: WHAT IS SPACE?

Space is a three-dimensional area in which objects and events occur and have relative position, direction and distance. Space is the region beyond the Earth’s atmosphere or beyond the solar system. A space is one of the degrees between the lines of a musical staff.

Our space is the area we occupy or in which we live, whether at work or play, whether we are shy or aggressive. Every day we use a lot of space in our particular way. Some people seek wide, open spaces. Others prefer intimate enclosed spaces.

Astronauts and explorers are brave and venture into unknown space. Dancers and actors define space, sometimes on a special space called a stage. Painters define space on an empty canvas, or large wall. Cities organize space: some space for buildings, some space for homes, some for highways, some for parks. People buy property: some own ranches, some own small gardens, some are crowded together, some live on a boat, some live in other people’s spaces.

There are spaces all around us. We are constantly responding to space. Which ones make you feel comfortable? Which ones make you feel awkward or anxious? Name several spaces you have enjoyed and know the best, from your childhood, or some other time in your life. Do you like to return to that space? Can you actually do that now, or only in your imagination?

Spaces are large, spaces are small, spaces are tall and spaces are cramped. There’s the space of a hallway, and the space of a gym. There’s the space inside a tent, a closet and under a bush. Vast spaces out west can be seen from the top of a cliff, and spaces to drive through exist between the ancient Red Oaks of California. Describe the spaces you seek out again and again.

How does an architect look at the open space of a landscape, how does the painter view the empty canvas, how does the sculptor mold form from a bland block of clay,

how do the musician’s sounds break the silence of their empty space?

A stage is an empty space. When you cross through it, you define the space giving it meaning, by the pathway you cut, the rhythms you use, and the energy in your physical movement. Through the combination of these elements, you convey to others how you feel inside, whether it is elation, anxiety, sadness, fear or jubilation.

Favorite spaces can be your grandmother’s house and the kitchen where she made Sunday’s cake, your garden and its pathways between rocks and its rippling pond, your room in the city: a small box next to larger boxes adding up to an even larger box which is the whole house…..all favorite spaces. What is yours?