

ART IS JUSTICE

Joy Harjo on how artists have vision

Poet Joy Harjo on the role of artists in their communities: "I feel as an artist that I have a responsibility towards growing, vision, compassion."

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

Transcript begins.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Perspective, Hope, Change, Beauty...it stops at Vision. Art Is Vision.]

Joy Harjo, poet and musician: I started writing poetry because I looked around and I saw that we weren't hearing women's voices.

[Joy, in a red, long-sleeve shirt with white trim and crystal embellishments and blue jeans, stands behind a wooden table on a small stage. Accompanied by a guitarist, Joy plays saxophone, then smacks the table with a tattoo-covered hand and recites a line.]

"This is what I think about your music," he shouted.

Joy: The first poetry I did came directly out of that call for justice.

[Joy continues to perform.]

"She always joked she was raised by wolves, so howling came natural. She fit tight into black leather pants and jacket. She was no Pocahontas."

Joy: I feel as an artist that I have a responsibility towards growing vision, compassion. One artist in a community can make quite a bit of change. Artists can give voice or vision to a community.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Vision, Expression, Change, Creativity, Hope...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

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The Autry Museum of the American West

“Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light,” Directed by Randy Reinholz (Choctaw),
Producing Artistic Director, Native Voices at the Autry

End of transcript.