

I Surround Myself with Beauty

Tracy C. Mansfield © 2024

I just realized
I surround myself with beauty
in my home, at work, and play
So calm.

A row of crystal bottles lit with a rotation of rainbow lights
A colorful fan of worldwide paper money
Antique medical paraphernalia
And shapes of blades

A few framed items around
Picture of my family before me as I work all day
Their art to my left and to my right

Music is my emotional lability
Elated, heartbroken, furious, and fiercely inspired
Blame a song for the first poem I've written in 20 years
Music makes me cry for what life should be like
for everybody

Necklace of multicolored beads and multicultural Lego heads
Soft and colorful socks and underwear and shirts
Color, sound, and texture are on and around me
Limoges porcelain is within reach

And Torrone boxes
filled with childhood memories

I just realized
I surround myself with beauty
in my home, at work, and play
Serene.

One rough oxblood wall, the rest all pink, above smooth bamboo floors
Prismatic stained glass windows and purpleheart bookshelves
Bernini, Neruda, Erté, Roget, Culpepper and - and - and -

The books are The Family of Man and Woman and Children

Many are children's stories about diversity
A few we have written

Hundreds more are on my phone
Communication, pastry, and biography
Fashion and history and creative psychosis
Science and faith and compassion

Ideasthesia
To name a good fraction

Books are not the only denizens of this domain.
You really have to feel the couch and the Persian carpet
Each so silky
Both the lamp and the cat are Tiffany

I mean seriously
That takes some kind of dedication

I just realized
I surround myself with beauty
in my home, at work, and play
So smooth

Beauty everywhere I look, sit, eat, listen, think, pee, and talk
Watrous or Bouguereau or Stanhope's organ angels or - or - or -
Through the walls I hear my family laughing
Oh yeah, my flashlight is copper

And look there
I even made a one-cell Rubik's cube

That's just my life in my home office
I also live in the Pacific Northwest, in a tree-filled neighborhood, with a stunning
garden
Really, the planet in general is pretty amazing.
Have you seen the moon lately?

Not to mention the stars
Fascinating
A traveling feast for the senses
Now, I do seem to have neglected the scents
I'll get to work on that

After napping
Cuz you know I need my beauty sleep

I just realized
I surround myself with beauty
in my home, at work, and play
So cool.

You should really meet the people I love
Then you'd know what I'm talking about
Family and friends, most beautiful
My children
And my wife
The loves of my life
Avid contributors of who they are

I also work in intensely special education
A world of caring delicacy, charm, refinement and grace
A depth of beauty all its own

I just realized
I surround myself with beauty
in my home, at work, and play
So, yeah...

a lifetime of gorgeous imperfection

as I surround myself with beauty