



The value of a work lies in its newness...the discovery of unknown worlds or the exploration of unfamiliar areas in worlds already discovered.

Octavio Paz
(1914-1998)
Poet and Diplomat

Art is communication. Art endeavors to evoke a response within those who express it and experience it. Both art itself, and our experience of it, are something new. When we encounter art, we usually meet the unknown and we are often stirred.

We can lean into the unfamiliar.

Leaning into the unfamiliar can free us from outdated assumptions. Our comfort with what we already know, while useful for survival, can mask beliefs that limit our flourishing. Unfamiliar ideas or people, can unsettle our easy certainty about how the world is or should be. With things loosened, we can begin to excavate any fossils of thought that bind us. We can explore if a richer quality of life is possible by accepting new presumptions.

Leaning into the unfamiliar activates our wonder to face our fear. Letting go of certainty involves risk and evokes the emotions that accompany risk. We may be forced to grieve that which will no longer be, to choose a different path, or even to re-imagine who we think we are. With wonder, we can feel our discomfort and still continue to search for what beauty might be discovered.

Leaning into the unfamiliar may unlock resources for hope. Almost by definition, the unknown is an un-tapped reservoir of possibilities. Within the unfamiliar, may rest new material to shape our imagined tomorrows. As we befriend the unknown, we open ourselves to fresh ideas for a nourishing future. Exploring novelty, we open ourselves to revitalized hope.

We can lean into the abundance of what newness holds.

*Where might I look for newness in places I already know?
How will I use fresh resources for hope?*