

TOGETHER, WE CREATE

after Zeina Azzam

In the sacred books of some,
art is described as thanksgiving,
as an expression of the infinite
and of the beauty of the universe,
and is invited
as adornment for precious words
and astonishing ideas.

Here is an idea radiating
through Alexandria's parks
and blossoming at the factory
at the water's edge: that art, for all
is not a luxury¹, but a necessity
like clean air and water, the harbor
and shade of trees in summer.

In our homes live tiny artists and
experienced ones, who venture
into a city of murals and sculptures
and luminous installations, a city
of tended gardens, of workshops, of bookstores,
of brick, and stone, and hand-blown glass.

Together we create a home that tends
toward curiosity and imagination.
Together, we are creating the finest kind of place,
a peaceful, artful home².

¹ "Poetry is Not a Luxury" by Audre Lorde. 1985

² "Our Artful Home" by Zeina Azzam, 2024

--ALX Arts Breakfast, Boeing Auditorium, Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, Alexandria, VA

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