

soul | makers

WHAT'S YOUR ARTIST SPIRITUAL ARCHETYPE?

Artists and creatives share many things in common, but we're not interchangeable. We each have unique gifts and challenges. Knowing our strengths, gifts and motivations can help us develop spiritual and artistic practices that are effective and challenge us to grow and become who we were created to be, make what we were created to make and do what we were created to do.

The 6 Artist Spiritual Archetypes Are:

1. *The Maker – I am a fearless creative person – everything is a creative project. I'm just wired this way. It's the joy of making that drives me. It's just how I am. I can't not make.*
2. *The Mystic – I'm a contemplative feeler – creating is where I make sense of the world. My art is an expression of my internal journey, spiritual life, and reflections on the world.*
3. *The Imaginative Visionary – I am a dream awakener. I see how things could be and want to help others see things through fresh eyes. I'm motivated by what can be.*
4. *The Storyteller – My work reflects the truth of the universal in the particular. I love to help people see the world in new ways with humor and grace.*
5. *The Soul Healer – I love to help others through my work. My heart's desire is to bring healing and wholeness.*
6. *The Prophetic Critic – I am a "heart revealer." My work acts to hold up a mirror to reality to see things as they are and prompt people to action.*

WHAT WE SHARE IN COMMON

Artists, Makers, and Creatives remind us to be human. They bear witness to our humanity through art, song, ritual, and myth. They are a human mirror, reflecting us back to ourselves and spurring our prophetic imagination.

MINISTERS OF IMAGINATION.

They take the ancient artistic and spiritual technologies of our traditions and put them in service of today's questions, challenges, and transitions. They also activate our imaginations to create new rituals for the life moments our ancestors never had. As artificial intelligence and virtual reality become ubiquitous, **the Maker is the poet in our midst, helping us remember who we have been, notice who we are, and discover who we might become.**

THEY ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

Our chronic isolation and phone addiction are only going to get worse. Add to this the imminent pressures of emerging technology—namely, the breakdown of many current conceptions of what it means to do a human job—and the economic and existential foundations of our society begin to shake. As more and more robots not only drive cars but express empathy, **we yearn for someone to help us distinguish ourselves. Against this backdrop, the Artist and Maker remind us that we are different from Alexa because we have a soul.**

THEY NEED SUPPORT.

The creative nature can be **blocked by despair**. Their capacity to see potential is enormous, and life's inevitable **disappointments can crush their optimism**. Further, the desire to create can **blind artists to the depths of treasure to be found in tradition**. The most masterful Makers know how to trace echoes of the old in the new. One of the key aspects of **[all the artist archetypes]** is that **they represent a powerful force for change and creativity**. However, this aspect can also be shadowed by a tendency towards fragmentation and self-sabotage, lack of self-awareness, and self-obsession.

(From Care of Souls, Casper ter Kuile, Angie Thurston, and Rev. Sue Phillips.)

No matter what your Artist Spiritual Archetype, you need a community of support who “gets you” and a structure of spiritual practices to guide you as well as a place to share and develop your gifts. All artists need empowering relationships, dedicated spiritual practices and a commitment to spiritual depth.

Artist Archetype Descriptions

THE PROPHETIC CRITIC

You are a “heart revealer.” Your work acts to hold up a mirror to reality to help others see things as they are and prompt people to action. The artist as prophetic critic attends to what is wrong in the present situation, relating the present to the past and future.

The Prophetic Critic Archetype longs to create something of enduring value. They work hard to benefit causes they believe in. Often, they have a heightened sensitivity to attitudes and morals and continually filter new information through their value systems in a quest for clarity and deeper significance. They can take life extremely seriously; the most routine things have significance for them.

They are compelled to make a positive impact on others through their artwork and have a strong sense of urgency to speak and to act. They believe in the power of art to transform lives and cultures. They tend to be self-disciplined, focused, and able to devise unique solutions to complex problems. They can tend toward idealism with a desire to remedy all of humanity’s problems.

They are loyal and giving to the people they care about the most and tend to demonstrate love through acts rather than words.

Statements of a Prophetic Critic:

- I often connect the dots between what is going on in the world and what God wants to happen.
- I often have a strong prompting of something God wants to say in a particular circumstance.
- I will stand alone on something I believe in strongly.
- I can discern the motives of others fairly quickly.
- God has given me supernatural confidence about an area of future change, even if others don't believe just yet.
- I find myself personally broken over the pain and brokenness in the world.
- I get frustrated and even depressed at the lack of faith or understanding of others around me.
- I regularly need to get space alone or long periods of time out to reflect, think and pray.
- I believe my art can communicate truths to others and have seen them transform attitudes, values, and conduct as a result.

THE IMAGINATIVE VISIONARY

You are a dream awakener. You see how things could be and want to help others see things through fresh eyes. You are motivated by what could be.

The Imaginative Visionary Archetype attempts to envision possible futures and looks to establish a more balanced relationship between what is visible and what remains invisible. They are unique and innovative. Often, they function as an oracle for society and likely don't even realize they are doing so. By reflecting society's norms and humanity's current struggles through a new lens, these creatives help to create a new path for not just the artistic form but for our culture in general. These people are often on the cutting edge of artistic movements and while their work may seem a bit too avant-garde, today their work may be admired and studied for years to come.

They are deeply spiritual and have a strong sense of God's activity in their lives. They are entrepreneurial risk-takers who are **less concerned with mundane details than working towards the bigger picture.**

Statements of an Imaginative Visionary:

- I am motivated by the "big picture" of a project.
- I love to dream big dreams and feel like God has given me those dreams for myself and others.
- God seems to do impossible things in and through my life on a regular basis.
- I see the path between a vision and goals and the best means to accomplish them.
- I can be counted on to contribute new ideas.
- When in a group, I am often the one others look to for vision and direction.
- I enjoy coming up with new and original ideas, dreaming big and thinking about visions for the future.
- I believe in the power of art to change lives and impact the world.

THE STORYTELLER

You love to help people see the world in new ways with humor and grace. You stir curiosity and desire to know deeper truth

The Storyteller Archetype has a gift for seeing the big picture and underlying patterns in complex situations. They have strong imaginations, and often see the world in different and

unique ways. They are often deeply spiritual, attuned to their inner selves and seek greater significance in life.

They have a strong sense of intuition and are good at tapping into their feelings and emotions to create a compelling story. This is often matched with the ability to figure out the most effective way to achieve their goals, and they can be very good at organizing and planning.

They are compassionate and caring people who can get other people excited about what excites them. They make good friends or partners because of their warm and caring personality and desire for deep relationships.

Statements of a Storyteller:

- When I see new truths I want to share with others.
- I have something to say to the world and I need to get it out.
- I have a consuming passion to help people find deeper meaning and see things in new ways.
- Difficult situations in my life have helped me uncover helpful spiritual applications to face them.
- People have told me my work has helped them see things in a new light or led them to an "ah ha" moment.
- I have created situations where people are prompted to ask spiritual questions
- I mix easily with a wide variety of people without having to be one of them.
- I really enjoy relating stories and sharing my experiences
- I find different ways to explain difficult concepts which people find helpful.

THE SOUL HEALER

You love to help others through your work. Your heart's desire is to express your inner self and bring healing and wholeness to others.

The Soul Healer Archetype expresses emotion, feeling, enthusiasm, and passion in their artwork. They are sensitive to the physical and sensual world and appreciate the vivid beauty of the world around them.

Their desire is to help others find healing, connection, and wholeness through their artwork. They have a strong desire to guide people through brokenness back to wholeness and to heal soul wounds that keep people stuck.

The vision for the Soul Healer is that every person can feel like they belong and are included. They believe in the power of art to heal both artist and viewer and often use their artwork to express their own pain or to capture the deep hurts of the world. They are motivated to create work that speaks to the heart and soul of humanity.

They are warm and loving in relationships; expressive, composed, and sensitive. They enjoy life and are great listeners. They have a gift for creating an atmosphere of family and belonging.

Statements of a Soul Healer Artist

- I have a passion to lead people to know and pursue their spiritual purpose.
- I am drawn to people who need God's grace for their life.
- I am compelled to comfort people who are hurting or suffering.
- Helping people find community excites me
- I am good at listening and taking in what people say.
- I empathize with those who are hurting or broken and can support them through their pain to wholeness.
- I like to provide a safe and comfortable environment where people feel they are welcome, that they belong, are listened to and cared for.
- I've seen art transform and heal in individual lives and I love being a part of that.

THE MYSTIC

You are a contemplative feeler – creating is how you make sense of the world. Your art is an expression of your internal journey, spiritual life, and reflections on the world.

The Mystic Artist Archetype has a profoundly spiritual nature. They yearn to connect to something bigger than themselves. They desire a sense of wholeness through connection with God. They are drawn to prayer, ritual, and creativity as a way to unify the different parts of themselves.

The journey of this artist archetype is one of self-exploration - exploring the depths of one's own creativity and its profound power to transform everything in one's life. They tend to think with the heart and will of God and desire to serve as a channel for God's work in the world.

The Mystic Artist Archetype is a very sensory being – enjoying experiencing the world around them through sight, sound, touch, feel and taste. They tend to feel connected with creation, God and their spiritual side. They see beauty in the smallest things and enjoy abstract concepts and ideas.

Statements of the Mystic:

- Making art helps me enter into the presence of God with complete surrender and enjoy spending time there.

- Intentional spiritual practices are a natural part of my life. (In fact art making is a spiritual practice for me.)
- I usually prefer to work alone or in small groups where I feel I can better express themselves.
- I can sometimes have difficulty fitting into traditional work environments or social situations because I can be perceived as being too intense or too sensitive.
- I attempt to show love and concern in all I do.
- I have compassion for all living creatures
- I have a readiness to believe and ask for God to work in miraculous ways.

THE MAKER

You are a fearless creative person. To you, everything is a creative project. You're just wired that way. It's the joy of making that drives you. It's just how you are!

The Maker Archetype is creative, enjoys working with their hands, and takes great pride in their work. They are usually good at making things look beautiful and are often perfectionists. These artists usually have a strong sense of intuition and can see the potential in things that others might not. They often have a rich inner life and enjoy exploring their imagination. They are typically loyal to the people they care about and can be counted on to be there for them in times of need. They are faithful and dependable. Often, they are an anchor in their community of faith or circle of friends.

The Maker is often motivated by a desire to express their unique vision and make a difference in the world. They may be seen as optimistic and enthusiastic, always looking for the next opportunity to create something new. The Maker is also typically a highly individualistic person. They may be seen as independent and autonomous, wanting to chart their own course in life.

Statements of The Maker:

- To me, everything is a creative project.
- I believe creativity is a gift from God and creating is an act of worship.
- For me, process is as important as the outcome.
- It brings me joy to create.
- I am organized and I like setting tasks and seeing them through to completion.
- I enjoy doing tasks others might consider routine.
- I spend the time it takes to develop the skills I need to achieve my artistic goals.

Created by Lisa Smith for Convergence and soul|makers, 2022

Note: This is a tool compiled from multiple sources. It is a draft and is only meant for fun and as a discussion starter.

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