

What “The Art of the Universe” Means to Us



Left to Right:

- Cameron Lawson, West Central Region
- Michelle Keyes, Southwest Region
- Marcus Crump, South Central Region

The theme for the 2019 IYOU Event is “The Art of the Universe”, and the Indies are hard at work creating an amazing opportunity for all Event attendees to explore their spirituality and experience a deep spiritual growth. The Indies share what the Event theme means to them:

Cameron

When we chose “The Art of The Universe” as our theme for the 2019 IYOU Event, it really came about quite naturally; almost *too* naturally actually, but we knew it was right. As three artists in the modern-day world, the theme really resonated with us as a whole.

What really entices me about art is its limitless possibilities. To start, if you were asked to describe art to somebody who had never heard of it before, what would you say? Maybe creativity might come to mind, or individuality. Or perhaps, on a deeper level, soul? These are still quite vague, are they not? The fact is, almost anything can be called “art”, if it has these things behind it. Art can show up as paintings, sculptures, music, theater, film, dancing, poetry, you name it. Given the true nature of art, the possibilities for what you can create have no end.

As we were talking about creativity and our similarities regarding our passion for art, Marcus, Michelle, Julie and I realized how much art ties into our world. Each of us is a work of

art, a masterpiece in this world. Each and every day, we can express ourselves however we choose. As the artists we are, it's truly up to us.

Ultimately, when you look at this world, this galaxy, or even the entire universe, everything is a work of art, and has a place in this world. In our lives, we are the painters, the poets, and the writers of our own lives, each contributing to the masterpiece that is our world.

Michelle

“The Art of the Universe”, to me, is the idea that what we create and put out into the world is what we get back from it. Creative expression and spirituality work together in many beautiful ways.

Art is something that I was surrounded by at an early age. I have been performing since I was 2 and, growing up, performance and acting helped me come out of my shell. Spirituality has also been a prominent theme in my life. I started attending Unity with my family around age 5 and started attending youth retreats and events in the 5th grade. I graduated out of the YOU program in 2018, and I am so thankful for all the amazing experiences I had in the program.

To me, self-expression and creativity are something that has the power to connect all of us. It's something that is so unique, yet so universal. I'm so blessed to get to explore this with such amazing and wise souls. And I can't wait to see everyone this summer and learn about this work of art we call our universe.

Marcus

When I think of “The Art of the Universe”, I immediately go back to the summer of 2018. 2018 was a hard year for me, yet I got through it with the help of the people close to me. I also used a lot of forms of art to help get through it. I played a lot of bass, I started to try to write things out, and I used A LOT of affirmations; until one day, I felt this rush of positivity from everything I had been doing. Through the art of music and affirmations, I was able to connect more deeply with the universe and the people in my life. But most importantly, I connected with myself. It's difficult to explain, but that summer, to me, is really what The Art of the Universe is about.

I want people to have a way to express themselves in whatever way they want, so that it may bring them closer with the people in their lives, as well as connect them with the universe. Life can be tough and we can be rough on ourselves. But when we have some form of art (prayer, affirmations, music, writing, etc.), it makes those tough times more manageable, like it did for me.

Through all of this, we can then start to truly appreciate life for what it is, and people for who they are. But most importantly, we can truly appreciate ourselves for who we are. We can then step back to see the universe's work of art, and view ourselves as a work of art as well.