

ART IS JUSTICE

Mira Nair on Cultural Representation in Art

Filmmaker Mira Nair shares the importance of telling the stories of her own people. "We are important, in our skin, in our color, in our poetry, in our language."

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

Transcript begins.

[The words "Art Is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Political, Hope, Powerful, Action...it stops at Culture. Art Is Culture.]

Mira Nair, film director: Art gives the ability to look at the world anew.

[Mira, on location in India, sitting in the director's chair. A clapperboard closes. In a street scene from her movie *The Namesake*, two actresses are pulled in a rickshaw. One holds an umbrella to shield them both from the sun.]

Mira: I've always been drawn to stories of those who are considered marginalized. If you're not in the mainstream or if you're not in the stream at all, you're virtually invisible. I'm very much about telling stories of those who are my own. If we don't tell our own stories, no one else will.

[Mira directs a full cast and crew shooting on a crowded train platform.]

We are important, in our skin, in our color, in our poetry, in our language. When we break the isolation of people and when we realize that our frailties and our struggles are as important as the other, that's the point of art for me. Action!

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Culture, Expression, Change, Creativity, Healing...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

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End of transcript.