



Tell Out My Soul

Truth-telling and Creativity

As a visual artist and author, I speak Truth (capital T) and love through creativity. I weave prayer and poetry into every word on the page and color on the canvas. I create to communicate with the One who gives me breath.

In my writing, photography, and painting—I hope to capture the essence of what is holy and complex, inspiring and life-giving.

This hunger for Truth-telling began at my grandmother's kitchen table, where the colors of grief, loss, remembering, and hope spilled across its surface. My painting and writing table was once my Grandmother's kitchen table.

Purple hull peas, green okra, yellow squash, and red tomatoes adorned the table – precious jewels colored by hard work and Louisiana sunshine—a meal prepared with love in the tiny kitchen of their home. The fragrance of summer filled the air, and we held hands and offered thanks. After each meal, the children would find themselves under the kitchen table, planning their next wild adventure. Occasionally, we would get quiet, listen to what the adults were saying, and giggle out loud when we heard something we shouldn't have.

I inherited that old table when my grandmother died. It is no fancy antique; it is an inexpensive furniture store table. But for me, it has become an altar of remembrance and hope. I now paint, write, and pray at my grandmother's table, the same table I once played under as a child. Each brushstroke and written word is infused with memories, carrying on the breeze the whispers of my ancestors and hopeful prayers for the future.

My Grandmother's greatest gift was teaching me to love in the truest sense of the word. And so, with each brushstroke and written word, I tell out my soul, honoring my grandmother's legacy of love, transcending the ordinary to echo the sacred in every creation. tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

What does “Truth-telling” mean to you, and how can you incorporate that into your own artistic or creative practice?



Roger Hutchison is a best-selling author, artist, award-winning nature photographer, and Episcopal lay leader recognized for his work with children and openness about his mental health journey.



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