

For it is the legitimate function of art to preserve in concrete form the fleeting image, the extinguishable form, the life that fades, the emotion that passes. Nor is it a desecration of time when the artist sets himself to hold it against disappearance into the void.

The artist is one who seeks to find those accumulations of experience which add up to the making of the self; and to preserve the self in consciousness. Once he has gained this insight he may create a realm of gold—a "Parnassus" in which he may hope to live forever rejoicing in the company of those he loves.

Ethel Schwabacher
The Portrait As Image, 1973

