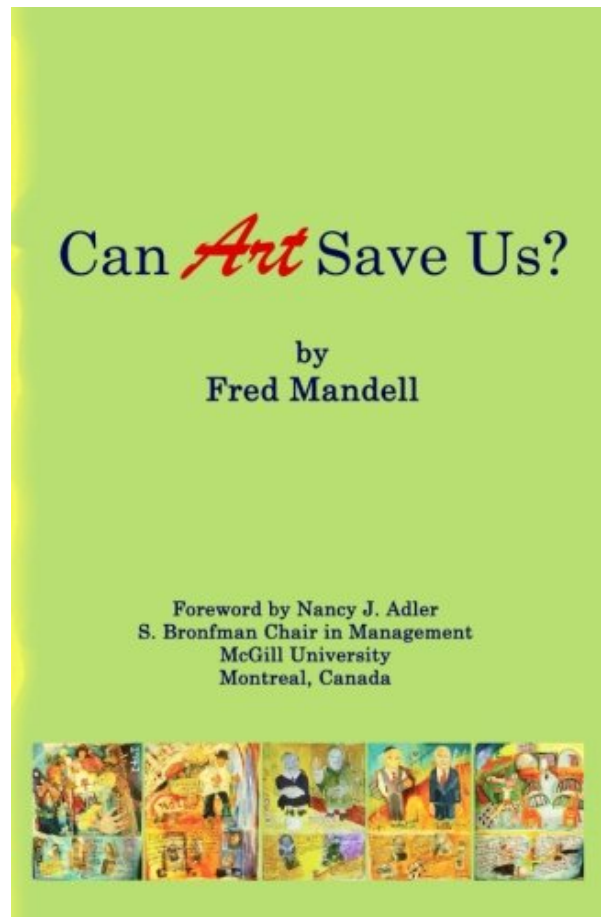


# CAN ART SAVE US? BY FRED MANDELL



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# Can *Art* Save Us?

by  
Fred Mandell

Foreword by Nancy J. Adler  
S. Bronfman Chair in Management  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada



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### **About the Author**

Fred Mandell is the CEO of The Global Institute for the Arts and Leadership, a not for profit organization dedicated to realizing a more peaceful, sustainable and beautiful world by demonstrating how the creative process fundamentally changes the way we see, approach, and innovatively interact with the challenges we face. He has been referred in the media as “a great compass” and “Life Changer.” A former executive in financial services, he is a practicing artist focusing on painting and sculpture. His works are in corporate and private collections. He has worked internationally with organizations and thousands of individuals to bring out their individual and collective brilliance.

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If you are troubled by the state of the world, then take heart. *Can Art Save Us?* will stir your imagination and sense of possibilities. Fred Mandell calls for non-artists and artists alike to take the art making process and the language of beauty out of the studio and into a troubled world desperately in need of art's transformational power. From the opening pages, Mandell draws us into the world of creating—its struggles and exhilarations. He brings us into his studio, into his frame of mind, into his past, as he grapples with creative choices and the experiences that influence them. We smell the paint, feel the canvas, and coax the images to life. And then, as the final images emerge, Mandell transports us on a surprising and inspired journey beyond the studio walls as he lands us in a place of hope and possibility.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

what I loved most about this book is how Fred encourages us ...

By Debbie Grovum

Once again, Fred Mandell masterfully uses the artistic process to teach us about life. In *Becoming a Life Change Agent*, he showed us how the creative process and artistic skills could help us navigate life's transitions. In his new book, *Can Art Save Us?*, Fred uses the creative process to illustrate how we can interact with the world in a more hopeful and healing way.

Sharing his journey, process and thoughts in the creation of *Memory Calls*, a series of paintings about the first five years of his life, Fred invites us to experience the artistic process. He cautions us about the importance of keeping art and creativity in our lives and shows us how art teaches us about imagination, vision, and uncertainty.

Perhaps, what I loved most about this book is how Fred encourages us all to embrace the artist within and interact with the world in a more comprehensive, empowering, courageous and beautiful way.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

No review can do justice to this gem of a book, because it must be read and savored.

By Meg Newhouse

No review can do justice to this gem of a book, because it must be read and savored. *Can Art Save Us?* falls into no simple category; it could only have come from and through Fred Mandell—artist, educator, philosopher, visionary, leadership consultant, family man, and Mensch (a good human being).

To oversimplify, this book is a work of art—a collage of personal memories and musings on memory, the creative process and the function of beauty and art—served up with visual images, poetic language, and mind-stretching ideas. The work is also like a river, in that it flows so naturally, starting with *Memory Calls*, a legacy painting project capturing his first five years of life, but branching off and carrying the reader along into all sorts of unexpected and interesting byways, without losing its momentum or identity.

The book is also, especially at the end, an exhortation to readers and leaders restore the centrality of the artistic imagination in order to deal creatively with the overwhelming socio-economic, political and ecological challenges of our time. Let the last paragraph speak for itself: “*Memory Calls* brought me to the realities of creativeness, paradox and beauty. Memory itself brought me back to what endures in the human spirit. And to our fundamental capacity for imagination. And the power of art to change us. And the possibility of a mended world.”

I will return often to *Can Art Save Us?* and I will gift it often.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Personal, hopeful, moving, and ultimately inspiring

By Paul Fragala

Reading this book was like going on journey with Fred - as he created a piece or collection of art, as he remembered his family and events from his life, and as you ultimately come to realize that art, true art, isn't just something to enjoy or appreciate, but something that can change you and those around you. The first part of the book is a story both of the present - as Fred is inspired and works on a piece that is really a collection of pieces - and the past - as he finds his life and family and those experiences to be an inspiration or art and life. The second part is a collection of learns. What can art teach us? What can engaging in the creative process do to help us grow and change and lead?

I had to read this book slowly - the moments that occur, the lessons to glean from his stories and experiences. I wanted to read more quickly, but I found that I had to slow myself down and let his lessons and stories connect with something deeper in my experience and lift. And then I would stop, let the ideas percolate for a while and then return to the book for more stories and more life and in the end a reason why art is so important to us individually and as a culture.

Having read many a book or hearing too many talks using sports or warfare or competition as the theme, it is utterly refreshing to find a book that lifts you higher, than urges you to reach for more but from a higher place and motivation. A bigger and better why. This is book to savor and reflect upon.

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