

Abundance and Choice

Nowadays, all music from roughly the 11th century up to the present is available anytime, anywhere. All you need is a subscription to Spotify, Amazon Music, or a similar platform, and you can access it wherever you are. The same applies to books: if you own an e-reader containing 1,000 books, how many of them do you actually read? Nothing seems truly special anymore.

One should have a personal musical canon, a kind of pact with oneself to return to—or remain with—that deeply personal relationship with one or a small number of individual works, or with a select group of highly valuable pieces. Otherwise, we simply become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information, our attention spans grow ever shorter, and we ultimately arrive at the question: what do we truly value?

Perhaps a comparison can be made with a favourite (spot in a) landscape: a place to which you feel connected, where you feel at home, and to which you always return. Travelling the entire world in order to have seen everything—a bucket list that many people feel they must have—can be wonderful, but it is also ephemeral, because it remains a superficial encounter or acquaintance. Experience your favorite place in all seasons and observe everything that happens through all its transformations.

Likewise, there is always something new to discover in the masterpieces of music and other forms of art, or something that inspires renewed wonder.

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