Hokusai Says

Roger Keyes

Hokusai says look carefully.
He says, pay attention, notice.
He says keep looking, stay curious.
He says there is no end to seeing...

He says everything is alive—
Shells, buildings, people, fish,
Mountains, trees. Wood is alive.
Water is alive.

Everything has its own life.
Everything lives inside us.
He says live with the world inside you…

It matters that you care.
It matters that you feel.
It matters that you notice.
It matters that life lives through you…

Look, feel, let life take you by the hand.
Let life live through you.

From Hokusai’s Autobiography

“From the age of six I was in the habit of drawing all kinds of things. Although I had produced numerous designs by my fiftieth year, none of my works done before my seventieth is really worth counting. At the age of seventy-three I have come to understand the true form of animals, insects and fish and the nature of plants and trees. Consequently, by the age of eighty-six I will have made more and more progress, and at ninety I will have got closer to the essence of art. At the age of one hundred I will have reached a magnificent level and at one hundred and ten each dot and each line will be alive. I would like to ask those who outlive me to observe that I have not spoken without reason.”

Written in 1835, at the age of 75 years.

Please take good care of your life,

Peg