

THE ARTIST WITHIN THE ART

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. PAINTING ROOM - DAY

Blinding white light is all we see. As we slowly pull out we see that we are looking at a blank painting canvas resting on a stand. The vibrant and bright colors of the room bloom.

An elegant young man wearing glasses strolls up and takes a seat before the empty canvas. This is RUSSEL CANE, a young aspiring artist. He thoughtfully surveys the canvas before he picks up a paintbrush, dips it into a jar of paint and touches the canvas with a light stroke.

The red streak of paint exudes a mesmerizing brightness as Russel carefully applies his next touch to the piece.

Montage:

Russel diligently works on the piece. He appears deeply focused on his work.

Slowly the colors in the room grow duller and less vibrant and the light diminishes leaving the painting room in dark shadow.

Finally Russel finishes the piece and sets the paintbrush down. He is panting heavily and sweating. The colors turn vibrant and the light comes back into the room in full effect.

Russel stares in horror at his painting. We are still left in the dark about what the painting is of.

INT. PAINTING ROOM - NIGHT

The empty painting room lies eerily quiet and dark in the night. The stand is empty. Russel walks into the room and places a fresh canvas on the stand.

He nervously scans the canvas and then grabs a paintbrush and paints rapidly, illuminated by the moonlight. Russel grows increasingly frantic as he delves further and further into his painting. His eyes get darker and his faces appears to be paler. Eventually he throws his paintbrush in agitated fear.

RUSSEL

No!

Russel swiftly stands up and throws the canvas across the room and then stomps out of the room in a panicked frenzy. The room sits eerily quiet.

INT. RUSSEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Russel lies in bed asleep. His eyes flick open and he sits up then tosses the covers to the side and walks out of the room.

INT. PAINTING ROOM - DAY

Russel robotically walks up to the canvas and paints as if in a trance. He hastily finishes the painting. He sits back to observe the painting and a smile creeps upon his face.

The lights lower in the room and the colors fade. Russel notices a person laying in the corner. In the blink of an eye the figure is gone. Russel blinks his eyes in disbelief.

As if controlled by some force he stalks out of the room.

INT. RUSSEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Russel tosses and turns in bed haunted by a nightmare. He sees quick and disturbing flashes of terrified people and hears the sharp cries of people's screams in the dream.

Russel starts to mutter incoherently.

RUSSEL

The artist lies within the art. The  
art lies within the artist.

There is a flash of a girl's ear shattering scream.

RUSSEL (CONT'D)

The artist lies within the art. The  
art lies within the artist.

We are now in...

INT. PAINTING ROOM - NIGHT

We find ourselves looking from Russel's point of view as he stands in the painting room while still in the dream.

RUSSEL (O.S.)

The artist lies within the art. The  
art lies within the artist.

A canvas rests on the stand and we look down at our hands to see a bloody knife in our right hand and the left hand covered in blood.

Suddenly we are taken back to...

INT. RUSSEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Russel springs awake with a frightened jolt. His eyes frantically dart about the room and he looks down at his hands to check for the knife. He takes a deep breath and rubs his eyes to shake the disturbing images.

INT. PAINTING ROOM - DAY

Russel looks around the painting room and then closes and locks the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

In the darkness we hear whispering.

RUSSEL (O.S.)  
The art. Within the art. The artist  
lies within the-

INT. RUSSEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Russel lays in bed, his eyes closed. His eyes flick open.

CUT TO: BLACK

We hear the sound of rattling and then a door being opened.

INT. PAINTING ROOM - NIGHT

We pan around the room until we realize it is the painting room. We slowly move toward the backside of the canvas on the stand. Once we move past the canvas we notice the outline of a figure standing in the dark corner of the room, concealed in shadow.

We continue to edge closer to the figure until we notice it is Russel. He has a wild look in his eyes and his expression appears crazed.

We find ourselves looking from Russel's point of view at the room. The canvas rests on the stand and we look down at our hands to see a bloody knife in our right hand and the left hand covered in blood.

We see Russel's face again as he cracks an evil grin and maniacally laughs.

In the corner of the studio rest a group of canvases.

We close in on the canvases and pan across each one.

On a couple of the canvases are paintings and sketches of people screaming in terror. A hand holding the bloody knife lies on a couple sketches. On the very last canvas is a sketch of someone holding the bloody knife and standing over a terrified girl. The person holding the knife in the sketch is Russel.

The title of the last canvas is written in small letters in the corner of the canvas. The title of the piece is written in red and reads "The Artist Lies Within the Art. The Art Lies Within the Artist".

FADE OUT.