

The Studio /

Leadership Experiences through Artistry

A Conversation on Artistry and Leadership

9-11am — Saturday, September 23, 2017

Location TBD

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*“Art washes
away from the
soul the dust of
everyday life.”*

— Pablo Picasso

The Antidote to Business as Usual.

Throughout history, many great leaders have ventured that whole-hearted artistry is the secret core of what it means to be alive in this world.

Today’s leaders, at the forefront of progressive change, are taking pioneering steps to re-cultivate this lived artistry in organizational and personal life.

At this small gathering a poet, a singer and a visual artist will share our art and aspiration to found a venture we call The Studio. Our mission is to guide leaders back to their primal foundation as creators, communicators, and connectors.

This is our invitation to join us in imagining the path ahead. We are inviting a small group of leaders in the arts, business, and society to experience what we are working on, and to engage in conversation.

Please come with the intention of overhearing yourself say something surprising and delightful, *where your thoughts never think to wander.*

Libby Wagner is a poet, teacher, writer and speaker who works with organizations large and small, and leaders across the globe. She is one of the only poets working in organizations where she inspires others to access and express their artistry. Libby is a trusted advisor for presidents, CEOs and executive directors, and her work has shaped the cultures of numerous Fortune 500 clients, including The Boeing Company, Nike, Philips, SAP, Diageo and Costco. Libby is a founding faculty member of the Institute of Conversational Leadership and Invitas with poet David Whyte, and she was honored as a Nellie Cashman Woman Business Owner of the Year in 2014. She has been quoted in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Harvard Business Review*.

Libby is the author of Amazon Best-Seller, *The Influencing Option: The Art of Building a Profit Culture in Business* (2010), *What Will You Do With Your 90,000 Hours? The Boardroom Poet's Thoughts on Work* (2016) and three collections of poems, including *Like This, Like That* (2002), *Somehow* (2012) and *Dancing on the Summer Lawn* (NP).

She collaborates with Irish musician and composer Owen Ó Súilleabháin in live performance and audio recordings. Together they've created *Harvest* (2015), an audio collection of poems and original music, and the genre-breaking *Now This* (2017), an embodied experience of spoken word poetry. Libby has a Masters of Fine Arts in Poetry.

Owen Ó Súilleabháin is a singer and composer from Ireland, who draws on his background in philosophy, Greek and Roman civilizations, and peace studies to inspire creativity in individuals and organizations. Owen works with leaders to unlock the sensibilities of listening into areas where it's most in need. Owen's approach to leadership has emerged from his dedicated apprenticeships with the poet David Whyte and the late Irish mystic and philosopher John O'Donohue.

As an artist, Owen has performed in more than a dozen countries and collaborated with *Riverdance* composer Bill Whelan, violinist Nigel Kennedy, actor Russell Crowe, director Steven Spielberg, and Irish traditional music legends The Chieftains. His mother Noírín Ni Riain is a leading sacred singer and theologian, and his father Mícheál is a pioneering national composer and founder of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Drawing from this musical inheritance, Owen has released eight albums of both ancient and contemporary song.

He has composed songs for both *The Teaching Channel*—dedicated to more effective teaching in America's schools—and the Storytelling Project at Stanford University. He has worked on the role of listening in healing and transformation for a California public hospital affected by gang violence. He has performed for industry leaders at the Center for Professional Excellence at the University of Texas San Antonio and at JJ Abrams' Bad Robot Studios in Hollywood. Each summer, Owen curates and leads journeys of art and spirit in the Golden Vale region of Ireland.

Steven Morris is an artist, writer and entrepreneur who, over the 27 years, has a thriving painting practice and over the last 23 years has lead his company Mth Degree, a brand evolution consultancy that works with and advises companies and leaders at large (Samsung, LG, Sony) and small (Green Flash Brewing Co., Port of San Diego, The San Diego Foundation) to evolve brands to become more conscious and purpose-driven with deep and lasting impact on their cultures and the world of their audiences. Steve has worked with Conscious Company Media as an advisor and writer, Business WEEK, Brand WEEK and Forbes as a contributor.

He is the author of *Brand Love & Loyalty* and *Humanizing the Customer Journey*, and his forthcoming book entitled *The Evolved Brand: How to Impact the World through the Power of Your Brand* challenges current business assumptions and shows organizations how to create and deploy brands with purpose, artistry and impact.

Steve's artwork explores the relationships between the worlds of natural environments, the unseen intuitive and spiritual worlds. As well, being trained as both an artist and designer Steve is constantly drawing upon the meaningful narratives of story and human emotion. His work is intended to take the viewer on a cathartic journey within their own intuitive self and throughout a moving world of "painting something as it's felt, not as it is," as Georgia O'Keeffe stated.

Steve has been a speaker for the past 23 years at national and international conferences on creativity and purpose-driven entrepreneurship. He founded and leads the San Diego-based Creative Sphere, a series of salon round-table conversations for business leaders on creativity and artistry at work. He has taught at Salisbury State University, Temple University, Tyler School of Art, San Diego State University and San Diego City College. He has an MFA from Temple University, Tyler School of Art.