



## **Practice Spotlight | GIVING**

featured sculpture of Eoín Burke from the  
Champion | Peace Artist Series

## Founder's Welcome

**A**ny noble vision must be accessible. If a big idea is not able to be approached or accessed it will remain just another good idea (and how good is it really if you can't apply it). There are a bunch of good ideas and intentions that remain in the space above the clouds; these good things seldom reach the ground of our lives and their promises remain unrealized. Talk of peace is often in the clouds. Talk of peace can be grandiose rather than grounded in our real lives. This is a problem because peace is possible. Peace can be practiced.

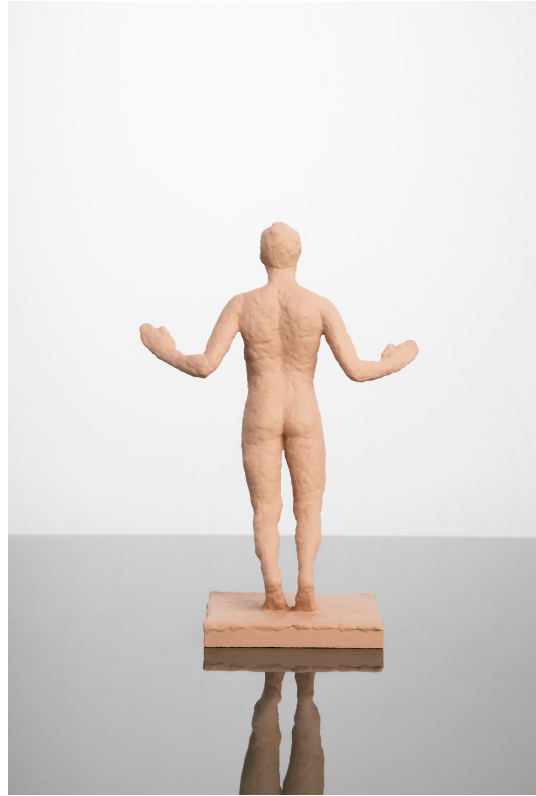
Through the monthly spotlight we will focus each new month on the featured practice. In the course of 2021, the monthly spotlight will feature the twelve sculptures that Eoin Burke created as Peace Right Here's first artist in the **Champion | Peace Artist Series**. We have used Eoin's work to teach peace at Yale University in a lecture series and also at Baylor University in a semester-long course. Many have been inspired and blessed by this unique collaboration and we hope the same is true for you.

In the next seven days you will be invited to observe a sculpture, ask questions of it, and consider your own responses to the figure. Along the way you will hear from the sculptor, Eoin Burke, to learn more about his intention for each sculpture. Additionally, certain days you will have questions and ideas to contemplate. Other days, you will have an activity or exercise to put into action. At the end of these seven days you will have three questions which will allow you a chance to reflect on the practice at hand and decide what the respective practice might look like in your life as you go forward.

Blessings and peace,

Paul Gorrell  
Founder | Peace Right Here

# GIVING



## **GIVING | Introduction**

Through the practice of giving we can become more human, more connected to one another, and more aware of our own needs and the needs of others. This practice can also help us become better stewards of the natural world and offer us a robust experience of the Spirit of what is deepest, brightest, and truest in ourselves and the world around us.

If we envision this practice as a story we can see various roles, including: the gift, the source of the gift, the giver of the gift, and the one who receives the gift. At a very basic level those are the features in the story of the practice of giving. Realize that we join in the practice of giving when we assume any of the roles in the story. The practice of giving may seem most obvious when we are the giver. A more hidden aspect of the practice of giving might be when we receive gifts. We must now consider that it is not enough to merely practice giving. It is most noble to rightly practice giving; and that is the real training grounds to make this a life-giving and peacemaking practice.

Depending on how we imagine or understand the source of the gifts that we give will change our view of this practice. One possibility is that even when we are the giver we are giving something that some source has been gracious to offer to us. In this case, our giving moves through our own poverty from the abundance of the source of the gift. In this understanding the hierarchy of giver and receiver flattens and we find our relationships on level ground, again. Here, the practice of giving reorients us to one another. There are many possibilities to consider with the practice of giving; ultimately, we must enter into the practice to learn its wisdom and way.

One question that may surface is, “What shows whether or not my practice of giving makes peace?” To explore this question will require a reflective and humble posture toward each area of relationship (with one’s self, with God/Spirit/Higher Power, with others, with the natural world).

Blessings await you and your journey to practice giving. Who knows what great awakening or realization you may have as you engage the simplicity of what is offered here? It is a real question. Who is to say what marvelous moment you may have? Meaningful moments surround and surprise us; may this be true for you once or twice in these seven days, for that could change a life, a community, a world.



## DAY 1 | The Sculpture & You

**F**irst observe the sculpture. Here are some questions and ideas to consider as you take your time getting new perspectives on the sculpture. Feel free to record your own ideas and ask any other question that seems fitting.

- What is this figure doing?
- What emotions do you believe the figure may be experiencing due to the position they are in?
- From toes-to-head, consider the experience of each body part (toes/feet, legs, core/stomach, arms and hands, and head).
- What do you think any of the answers to the questions above or any other thoughts you have about this have to do with the practice of giving?

## DAY 2 | Artist Notes

Watch the following video where Eoín Burke describes the features of this sculpture and how it makes sense of the practice of giving. As you watch this video consider Eoín's rendering of this practice and work to see his perspective while also making room for your own perspective and ideas on this practice. Below the video will be some key takeaways from Eoín's words on giving.



- Giving can be scary
- Giving can be a way that we avoid relationship with others
- When you do something that is sacrificial for someone else it can be frightening
- It is possible to desire to give and at the same time resist the act of giving

## DAY 3 | Contemplation

**Question:** Remember someone who taught you about giving. What story or moment came to your mind? As you remember this story what does it teach you about giving?

## DAY 4 | Action

Consider the resources you have. Sometimes when we think about the great needs of the world, what we have seems rather small and insignificant. The truth is we all have much to give; we have money, time, tools, encouragement, validation, expertise, and the list goes on and on. Don't be fooled into believing that you have nothing to give. Make a list of all that you have to give. Think about the tangible and intangible gifts that you have to give. Today's action is to take stock of what you have to give. Also consider the source of each of the gifts on your list. A few prompts will be provided below to help you see more of the gifts you have available.

What are your passions?

How could you give affection?

What topics do you know about?

What skills/gifts/talents do you have?

Do you have any tools you would be willing to share or give others?

Do you have any valuable objects you would be willing to give others?

Do you have extra time to invest in the lives of others?

What valuable life lessons have you learned that could help others?

Wherever you are, look around and see if you notice anything that could bless the life of someone else, what is it?

## DAY 5 | Contemplation

**Question:** Have you witnessed (in your life or others) the act of giving being practiced in such a way that relationships are *not* nurtured or blessed? What happened, what was wrong, and what might have been a better way to give?

## DAY 6 | Action

Of course the practice of giving can include giving money or presents. Be sure to keep in mind that the practice of giving is not only about giving objects. We can also give time, information, encouragement, love, hope, second chances, and the list really does go on and on.

Today, find your moment and give a good gift (tangible or intangible). Be sensitive to the people and aware of the needs that surround you, and when the moment is right give a good gift. You may be led to give in a small way or a sacrificial way. You may be led to give anonymously or with your actual presence. Your gift may be to a person, yourself, God, or the Earth. There are no measurements or rigid guidelines; only the invitation to open your heart and to give, today.

**Question:** How did it go?

## DAY 7 | Reflections & Going Forward

**Question:** What has this practice looked like in your life up till now?

**Prompt:** Describe something from the past week that you have learned or something that has been meaningful to you, regarding this practice.

**Question:** How would you like this practice to be a part of your life going forward?