

CAREERS, AND PERSONAL LIVING

The influence of Martha Graham (1894 – 1991), modern dancer and choreographer, has been compared with that of Picasso on modern visual arts, of Stravinsky on music, and of Frank Lloyd Wright on architecture.

She danced and choreographed for more than 70 years, was the first dancer to perform at the White House, and received the highest civilian award of the United States: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Other awards included Japan's Imperial Order of the Precious Crown and the Key to the City of Paris.

Just assessing her career on longevity is also impressive. Professional dancers experience the same physical wear and tear as other professional athletes. Even if they manage to avoid career-shortening injuries, there just comes a time when you can't do it anymore. Martha Graham surpassed every standard.



If you want an example of dreaming the impossible dream, Graham is a hard act to follow. Although she burst through many a barrier, she still found boundaries.

Her most famous quote is this: “No artist is pleased. There is no satisfaction whatever at any time. There is only a queer, divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others.”

In the pursuit of excellence in our careers, it is always important to keep in mind that no matter how well we – or others – have done a job, it can always be done better.

When it comes to personal fulfillment, Solomon and others in the Bible emphasize an important aspect of life. People who manage to break out of selfishness and focus on caring for the needs of others find a sense of purpose and inner satisfaction far beyond any possible worldly gratification. Life's meaning is not found in getting more, but in giving more.

Here is what the prophet Isaiah said:

Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be as bright as day. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy you with all good things, and keep you healthy, too; and you will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring (Isaiah 58:10-11 TLB).

Isaiah knew what we are discovering in the work of Life Care and Century Park.

– Beecher Hunter