

Discovery

Discovery is an uncovering of what was formerly covered, or unknown. In other words there is an element of newness, freshness, and often of surprise, in the making of a discovery.

Sometimes discoveries are history changing. In the early modern period, in Europe, sailing vessels departing from England and Western Europe made many discoveries of (to them) new lands to the West, in North and South America. Once these discoveries had been made, the knowledge of them became a permanent ingredient in our available knowledge of the world.

But what about discoveries of other sorts? What about discoveries in the arts? Look around the homelands of Vasco da Gama and Columbus. William Shakespeare is seated at his scriptorium in the Globe Theater in London. He is quiet and his vision peruses an inner landscape. He is in fact on the brink of discovery, as was Columbus on the East Coast of America. What Shakespeare longs to give birth to is a verbal discovery, a discovery of one of his most beautiful sonnets buried deep inside him, a blend of death-fear, physical lust, and an insatiable adoration of beauty. His discovery belongs to the permanent condition of the world.