

Beauty builds bridges and makes connections between the senses and the soul, between contemplation and expression, between ourselves and the world.

In this wide-ranging and deeply felt book, J. Ruth Gendler invites us to reclaim the often misunderstood quality of beauty as one of the most profound forces in our lives. Drawing on observations from art and nature, contemporary culture and personal experience, Gendler looks at her subject in its most generous implications—not simply as a reflection of surface and image, but as a pathway to wholeness, integrity, coherence, and ultimately, to love. Written with curiosity, courage, a discerning eye and a lyrical sensibility, and illustrated with evocative line drawings, *Notes on the Need for Beauty* displays the strong personal voice that has made Gendler's previous book, *The Book of Qualities*, so beloved. It is a work to savor and to share.



“Like a rose disciple, Ruth Gendler takes note of what's beautiful and assembles this wholly original text, full of children talking, mystical insight, the history of cosmetics, sublime etymologies, and big mirrors that someone attached to the sides of the NYC sanitation trucks. Look out. Here comes the aquarium.”

— Coleman Barks, *A Year With Rumi*

“Who does not have a thirst for more beauty in their life? Who has provided themselves with the necessary time to savor the beauty that already surrounds them? Ruth Gendler's *Notes on the Need for Beauty* is studded with wise counsel and crafted prose, coaxing us gently to turn from our current ways, to better witness and so be nourished by the infinite beauties of the world—just as it is.”

— Peter London, *No More Secondhand Art*



J. RUTH GENDLER is an artist, writer, and teacher. The author of *The Book of Qualities* and the editor of *Changing Light: The Eternal Cycle of Night and Day*, she resides in Northern California. www.ruthgendler.com.

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