



Photo: one of mine from the 2015 RA Summer Exhibition (detail of one of his wonderful tapestries).

Grayson Perry

Grayson Perry is one of my favourite artist/crafts persons! I love his fresh, heart-felt, moving, quirky, challenging, intense, bonkers, micky-taking approach to the subject. His 2012 Reith Lectures provided me with wonderful food for thought during my MA studies.

When his subsequent book came out “Playing to the Gallery”, it was a treat to be reminded all of his wry and insightful thoughts and opinions about art and the art world.

My husband bought me a copy for my birthday.

The one thing that stood out more than anything is his observation about the self-consciousness being the enemy of the artist. I remember making a journal entry about this very thing, which is shown on the next page. I think this is why I found drawing with the ‘eye of the heart’ at the Gathering of Artisans International Conference so helpful. I found my unselfconscious self again.

Children are very unselfconscious when they are making art. They never think about signing their work, or charging money for it. They are happy to share it or give it away. When their work is done, they simply move onto the next thing. They live in the now so much more easily than we adults. I think this is why they are such good artists.



Getting My Unselfconscious Life Back: Journal Entry

8th - 9th April 2014

Above: unselfconscious artworks by child-aged me. Probably better than what I do now.

“The self-consciousness is the very DNA of modernism. I mean modernism really, the whole of modernism, the last hundred years of art leading up to say the 1970s, it was all about the fact that it was self-conscious about the idea it was making art and so self-consciousness is crippling for an artist.”

Grayson Perry Reith Lecture: “Playing to the Gallery – Democracy has Bad taste” 15.10.13

Don't get me wrong, I've loved the MA work, but frankly, I'm looking forward to getting my unselfconscious life back.

I'm looking forward to not having to explain my every thought, every academic link, and every notable 'other' who contextually inspires me. I just want to get on with the doing process.

Professor said that it has been argued that Picasso would never have got a PHD because he wouldn't articulate his art. Good for him.

I am a doer who's beginning to feel held back from doing in order to jump through the academic protocol of explanation and justification. It will be so good to get back to just being - and out of being, doing: like a child playing unselfconsciously. Surely this is what creativity really is?

Sir Ken Robinson quotes Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize-winning physicist, Carl. G. Jung and Albert Einstein in the 1999 NACCCE Report “All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education”:

Working on a problem in electrodynamics: “I continued to play with it in this relaxed fashion and it was like letting a cork out of a bottle. Everything just poured out and in very short order I worked out the things for which I later won the Nobel Prize.” (Richard)