

Ten Questions

Lisa Crowley

What did you have for breakfast?

It's not important.

Where did you grow up?

South Auckland.

What have you learnt?

Friends agree with each other too much. One of the most important things one can do is actively and honestly engage one's thinking with that of those around you. Intellectual community is important and it starts at home. If you can't do that then you've got the wrong friends.

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Having kids AND not totally losing myself in the process – a cliché, but clichés are such for a reason.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I don't know.

Who do you admire and why?

Joan Didion, for writing *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*.

Helio Oiticica, for making art that can't be beat.

What book last made an impression on you?

Primo Levi's *If this is a Man*.

One thing you wish you had?

A stay at home wife would be good. The kind that didn't hassle me too much but did listen to my ideas for new artworks when I got home from work. They would need a good IQ so they could be stimulating company when I needed it but not one that was higher than mine.

On what occasion would you lie?

On some occasions.

Which piece of art really matters to you?

There isn't one. Some films maybe... if I had to choose it would be Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris*. I haven't seen it for years but remember it vividly and think about it more than any other film or artwork I can think of.

Who are you listening to at the moment?

No one.

What do you like around you while you work?

Space. Tea.

What is art for?

A lot of things, and sometimes I think the good art that is being made now is not even calling itself art. It's happening somewhere else.

The most useful thing I have heard recently was when someone I know referred to artworks as 'consciousness'. It struck me as a productive way of imagining what art was and what it might be for. The way it was being used in conversation implied that one has to find some way of connecting with or understanding what is in front of them as an activity that is generated simultaneously by a person and by the world they live (or lived) in. It also implied an artwork is a phenomenon that can exist independent of the specificities of its making – that it can have a universal dimension. It can tell us about the conditions of its production; time, place, ideology, culture and politics. It can also reflect back the here and now (and the future) to us. For me the most interesting art experience is one where I am compelled to understand an artwork's genesis through the structural forces that shaped it and to relate this to my own location in the world, (no matter how big the gap might be). Alongside this I also want to engage with the thing itself and what it might be in its current and future incarnations. I think the best art is made by people who are not afraid of making work that responds to the fact that power locates one in the world (for better or for worse) and that they are also wholly open to the possibility that the art they make will have a life beyond its own conditions of production.

Asumi Mizuo

What did you have for breakfast?

A cheese and asparagus toasted sandwich.

Where did you grow up?

In Tokyo until 13, then in Whakatane 'til 18.

What have you learnt?

Not to expect too much. But to be grateful...

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Survived 6 years of art school at Elam, and still feel keen about art making!

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"It's sooooo pretty.. it's soooooo beautiful." (in op-shops, leading to my room getting filled up with junk/treasures.)

Who do you admire and why?

Anyone who can go to bed at night and wake up in the morning regardless of having to do so or not. Something I can't do.

What book last made an impression on you?

A world atlas published in 1942. It has maps of Europe with legends showing UN controlled and Axis controlled areas, and the UN controlled and Japan controlled areas in Asia. It's the first mid-war map I came by in an op-shop, and it's beautiful.

One thing you wish you had?

A commercial property in CBD I can rent out.

On what occasion would you lie?

When I can't just keep quiet and smile.

Which piece of art really matters to you?

Most of the works of Tacita Dean and Christian Boltanski will do.
And lots of older photographic works.

Who are you listening to at the moment?

Some 70's Japanese pop singer.

What do you like around you while you work?

I like keeping some noise on, like TV.

What is art for?

Showing ways of understanding and seeing.

Liz Maw

What did you have for breakfast?

high brow gruel

Where did you grow up?

Napier

How has your thinking changed / what have you learnt?

My thinking hasn't changed really. Although I don't believe in any kind of god anymore. Also I have learnt more of the brutality of life.

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Painting a good and profound Picture.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

'Eternity' and 'inevitable' and 'existence' and 'alas oh' and 'eh?'

Who do you admire and why?

Andrew McLeod (hard working, genius), Janet Frame (great work, type of poetic writing I like, I never care if there's a plot or not), Bek Coogan (great work, inspired, spontaneous and witty, genius musician and performer). Rita Angus (great work, very fine painting, always intriguing).

What book last made an impression on you?

Ema Tavola

What did you have for breakfast?

Scrambled eggs + toast.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Suva, Fiji and raised in London and Brussels. I finished my secondary education in Wellington, New Zealand.

How has your thinking changed / what have you learnt?

I do a lot of looking, observing from the outside... I have a lot of questions, and am often plagued with contradiction. I have learnt to own my position of enquiry, and not dissect it to fit into other people's boxes.

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Leaving Fiji to manage life solo in Aotearoa.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I definitely overuse 'potentially'. And 'strategically'. And I swear a lot.

Who do you admire and why?

I admire people who work hard, because they are inspiring and make me want to work hard too. I admire people who embed their lives in service to their communities. And I admire mothers, because it feels like shaping a child's life and experience is the most important job in the world.

What book last made an impression on you?

You mean the last book that made an impression on me?! Michel Houellebecq- *The possibility of an Island*

One thing you wish you had?

To own my own house with heaps of space in central Auck. ha ha I wish. I could maybe afford one in Detroit...although not for a few years...if ever.

On what occasion would you lie?

Probably on a variety of occasions. But not ever to my beloved.

Which piece of art really matters to you?

O gee. There are many. Mostly painting, film and music.

Who are you listening to at the moment?

Do you mean music? Om, Sleep, Him, Charon, Circle, Bach, Shostakovitch. But a lot of different stuff actually. Sometimes quiet.

What do you like around you while you work?

I like to have Andrew around. I like to listen to audio books, science shows etc on the net. don't mind visitors either as long as I can keep working.

What is art for?

To distract people from killing themselves, money, social bonding, elite groups...

Musrum by Eric Thacker and Anthony Earnshaw.

One thing you wish you had?

The ability to live in two places at once.

On what occasion would you lie?

I have issues with honesty.

Which piece of art really matters to you?

A painting called *4 Women* (2008) by Sangeeta Singh; I bought it in Suva.

Who are you listening to at the moment?

Birds... I had bronchitis recently and my ears were semi-blocked, I somehow tuned into the bird frequency, and since then have not stopped hearing the birds. There are tui in my garden, who always make me smile.. on the inside.

What do you like around you while you work?

A cup of tea, reference material, snacks and Blu-tack.

What is art for?

To reflect the human condition.

Ani O'Neill

What did you have for breakfast?

A cup of coffee from the staff room and then a chip buttie at morning tea from the school tuck shop

Where did you grow up?

Grey Lynn & Ponsonby in Auckland NZ, key moments as a nipper in Ngatangiia, Rarotonga also.

How has your thinking changed / what have you learnt?

That there is always more to learn – there are more shades of grey between black and white.

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Managing to maintain a positive attitude (even if the poo hits the fan) – almost 98% of the time.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

UM ,WOW & GOSH and UM again.

Who do you admire and why?

UM...GOSH.. UM... MY lovely Mama Polly because she maintains a positive attitude and shes nearly 93 so shes seen lots of poo hitting fans but she keeps it all in perspective.

What book last made an impression on you?

The Tattoo Artist by Jill Ciment

(& *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss – if I can have two...)

One thing you wish you had?

(More) Money – so we can get our house built next year without too much strain :)

On what occasion would you lie?

I really try not to do outright lies! But I think when you're being diplomatic you often don't tell the whole truth – which is kinda lying....I think I last 'really' lied about doing something I was meant to (which I didn't – but said I did) knowing I would get around to doing it when I could... and basically had to lie to appease someone's temper – therefore a highly-strung moment was averted just by saying YES when I should have said NO).

Which piece of art really matters to you?

GOSH that's TOO hard to answer... usually the one that I'm looking at – as it's in the forefront of my mind at the time – I reckon ALL art is important even if I don't 'like' it – gotta give it your best when looking – bathe in it for as long as you can & soak it up... pull out the language the artist is using and have a conversation with it.

Who are you listening to at the moment?

Motorbikes whizzing past outside and the hard drive humming here in the school staff room.

Otherwise its Bob Marley in the car at the moment, and whatever dub husband has going off the laptop at home.

What do you like around you while you work?

Clean work table. All the materials and tools I need at my fingertips, art books, radio, – snacks and tea making facilities. Add a TV and DVDs if its couch-based making. Fun people and a nice shady tree if its collaborative!

What is art for?

Honouring our creative potential. Manifesting a visual language. Making the world more poetic. Poking people in the eyes and setting off alarm bells so we don't get cornered by normality. Stimulating the SOUL. Letting it out and letting it in.