

To be part of things or not to be part or having been part of things as they may become, to part from that part that was part of things as they are or not to part?

Part of life is more than life. Part of an artist is more than an artist. Everyman in the everydaytoday part of things lives like everyman. So do I. Part of myself is separate from several selves. Painting is special, separate. my

Some claim to represent nature, hell on earth, sick society, inner turmoil, wild beats and things as they are. May not one side of me speak up for the side of the angels? (wholeness by separation)

Separation, in the past, of painting from walls and books, from architecture and sculpture, from poetry and theater, from religion, history and nature, from decoration, documentation and description, was achievement in awareness.

Separation, in history, of fine and liberal arts from labor and business, from trade skills and entertainment, from professions of pleasing and selling, was achievement in freedom.

Dumping together in three American fauve decades (social-real, surreal, abstract expressionism) of painting with politics, sadism, publicity, subconsciousness, primitivity, suffering, pleasure, psychology, symbolism, love, hate, fate, accident, irrationality, action personality and conspicuous patronization, was achievement romancing.

Painting is special, separate, a matter of meditation and contemplation, for me, no action or physical sport. "As much consciousness as possible." Clarity, completeness, quintessence, quiet. No noise, no schmutz, no schmerz, no fauve schwärmerei. Perfection, spirituality, absoluteness, consonance, coherence. No particularities, no agitation, no automatism, no gesticulation, no grotesquerie. Detachment, disinterestedness, passiveness. No humbug, no button-holing, no mixing up, no exploitation. No lack of loftiness, no humourlessness.

Place apart where painting can be free, absolutely itself, unexploited, accomplice to no thing else

Consummateness, transcendence

Folk

and nothing else

Dignity, order, rationality Free.

unmanaged means

Place apart where painting can be itself.

unexploited, accomplice to nothing
accomplice for action

Violence, styles, sweat, sales voodooism

diary, catharsis

preachments, practices, career, hodge-potching, hobby, trademarks

enthusiasm truth, thought, freedom, purity, peace, serenity

Ad Reinhardt: TO BE PART OF THINGS . . . | Unpublished, undated notes.
[ART AS ART, p126]

David Patten, 17.08.2020