

For Francois

**First memory of painting**

Im boring, i've just always loved it. Probably from 3/4 years old I had a knack for pencils and colour and stuff. I think I was encouraged from early on and that really helps develop a kids confidence and identity.

**How did you decide to be a painter?**

I moved to France with my family when I was a child and none of us spoke French. Not having linguistic tools made Art orientated lessons the only way of making myself seen and heard for quite a while, I think this nudged me onto a creative path. I then studied Art up to a postgrad level and was drop kicked out the other end. The real struggle began..Lots of confusion and lots of questioning my education. I had no money, no real job and no stable accommodation. Fast forward a few years of ramming and I decided that if I was doing this I would have to make sacrifices, be smart and teach myself to be extremely disciplined. It's still a work in progress.

**Did any artist particularly inspire you?**

I don't think one artist has particularly inspired me. Collectively, many do so through their stories. Lee Krasner and her tenacity, Francis Bacon for being Francis Bacon, Goya for being Goya, Vivian Suter's jungle isolation with her mother.. I love their stories and love that we get to learn about them.

**Do you need to understand to love a painting?**

I don't think a straight answer applies to this. There's a gentle crescendo-decrescendo to it. For me, some work with loud explanations, some need quiet narratives and some need silence. I need explanations around an Agnes Martin, or a Warhol, I like silence around a Rothko or a Tal R and I will idolise the narrative of a Manet or Bacon.

**Is there a work for which you said ' this is exactly what I wanted to do'**

No, because I enjoy destroying and recycling into fresh works. It's cathartic. Im constantly trying to out-do myself. I think it's probably very inwards facing and individualistic but it keeps me needing to paint and keeps me focused. I'm competitive with myself.

**The famous work that you do not like?**

I rarely think about works I don't like. I don't see the need.

**What is essential for your creation?**

Canvas, glue, paint

**What is your relation to recognition?**

It is something that a part of me strives for, but I think that stems from being the receiver of encouragement as a kid. Sometimes we mix up the need for recognition and the need for educational encouragement. I don't want it to be driving my practice. I keep myself in check.

**If tomorrow you could no longer be a painter what would you do?**

I'd go back in time and be Manet's head gardener.

**Your artistic dream**

I thought that would be easy to answer but I'm a bit stumped. Im still easing in to this as a full time job and I'm so worried it'll be snatched from me that I prefer not to get too ahead of myself.