

## Making work *IN-BETWEEN- some thoughts*

*Delpha Hudson, May 2017*



Art is a tool for creating exchange of ideas and re-imagining, and re-imagining relationships between self, society and being.

In performance, the debate about live-ness and document rages on. Which is more significant and takes precedent over the other? It is the same in any media. Debate about drawing, painting, media, message do not answer any questions. For me it is the tension *between* things that is interesting, and where meaning resides.

My work creates tension *between*, communication *between*, dialogue *between*. The motivation for creating art works is to express meaning, yes, *and* to create dialogue and communicate with others. Through continually play, exploration, changing position, media, multiple dialogues *between* can be created.

Many people feel isolated, with a deep seated sense of being an outsider, and unable to express emotion or sense to others. Art can communicate commonality of feeling, share the un-sayable, and un-communicable. I use figurative gesture in paintings, intentionally to create empathy, knowledge and connection to others. Figures show emotion, tell a story, are connected to each other and the world in a way that is troublesome in everyday life.

Ordinary people (not gallery goers) walk past my studio window every day, and they stop talk about what it is they enjoy looking at. Painting and form operate on so many levels. We often forget what it is. People enjoy the quirky, the beautiful the unusual. Ettinger's idea of *witnness* not just witnessing, looking but sharing empathetically; creating conversations *between* that engage.

In addition, I am involved with many different conversations with my self. There are lyric voices that compel many different conversations between meaning and media. Painting, performance, sculpture all create intentional intersections that have multiple voices, in turn creating textual weavings between subject positions, ideas,

theory and genres. They become *dialogic* (Bakhtin). Displaced and often subversive, artists can create harmony, reconfiguring expectations of their role in the herd, in media, in culture, creating meaning that like a butterfly can fly away and mean nothing/something somewhere else.

Multiplicity in dialogue between collapse time meaning, and difference. Thinking forms , speaking forms, sculpting thought, contemplating... Art is a tool for creating exchange of ideas and re-imagining, and re-imagining everything...(Beuys) *between....*