

Muse: Oh my! This is awful Pullman!

Pullmann: Exactly.

Muse: Then why? Your paintings are usually so wonderful.

Pullmann: That's passé.

Muse: Oh really? Since when?

Pullmann: Awhile now. Aesthetics is no longer needed. Real art has been freed from it.

Muse: Who says such nonsense?

Pullmann: The biggest and most important in the art world. You only have to turn on the radio Ms. Muse, and then you'll learn these things.

Muse: No, no you must have really misunderstood Pullmann. Aesthetics doesn't mean everything in art has to be beautiful.

Pullmann: It doesn't?

Muse: Aesthetics is an umbrella term. It refers to Aesthesis – the senses – and in a way this ugly scribble is also “aesthetic”. Real art is always aimed at the senses.

Pullmann: Interesting... but it doesn't do that anymore.

Muse: Of course it does Pullmann. And it always will as long as art is called art.

Pullmann: Are you sure Ms. Muse?

Muse: Absolutely sure. That's how it works with names. They describe something fixed. Otherwise one day you could say bread and butter but mean the washing machine.

Pullmann: You're absolutely right! Bread and butter instead of washing machine, that doesn't really work. But what about stool instead of chair?

Muse: Enough of your antics Pullmann! A stool is the same thing as a chair!

Pullmann: No, not exactly.

Muse: Whatever. But do you get what I said about art?

Pullmann: Very well actually. Art is aesthetic because it's art, but that doesn't mean it has to be beautiful.

Muse: Well, just about.

Pullmann: But not CONTEMPORARY art, right?

Muse: And why not? Art is art Pullmann! Contemporary art doesn't make any exceptions there.

Pullmann: Yes it does! At least what I've come across. It breaks with aesthetic tradition, criticizes escapism and calls for an active participation in events in the form of provocation and intervention. It no longer sits on a pedestal, but assumes an active part in the things of life.

Muse: That's outdated, avant-garde propaganda. Art should not only be able to deal thematically with the problems of the world after that, but intervene directly.

Pullmann: Well, why not also?

Muse: Because it doesn't work. When art veers into way of life it's no longer art; it excommunicates itself from the semantic field from which it refers. Do you understand Pullmann?

Pullmann: I get it... I get it... yeah...of course... And why is it like how you say it is Ms. Muse?

Muse: ...Let's start from the beginning again – art is aesthetic because it addresses the senses; something that is essentially alien to the mind.  
- So far everything clear?

Pullmann: I think so.

Muse: It doesn't deal with the world as understood in everyday life, but rather with notions of a world of its own; with an imagined world, which is at a constitutive distance to things in the reality of everyday life.

Pullmann: That's good Ms. Muse! I'd welcome a little distance.

Muse: You see!

Pullmann: And what about avant-gardes?

Muse: That's a long story Pullmann. A story of domestic criticism of art. Criticism of artists who think art shouldn't be on the outside but has to overflow into way of life.

Pullmann: I think so too!

Muse: It doesn't work, like I already said.

Pullmann: That's too bad. Why doesn't it?

Muse: Because neither life as Schiller propagated, can be lived as art, nor art as life which only simulates these references because of its aesthetic state.

Pullmann: So it's lying?

Muse: Think of an actor on stage. When they die, they're just acting like they did.

Pullmann: But what if they for example, *coincidentally* really did die? Pure *coincidence*, do you get what I'm saying?

Muse: Nice of you to share Pullmann! Then the show would be over. They'd immediately lower the curtain!

Pullmann: Exactly!

Muse: Wait a minute! I'm saying "exactly" because that proves that art ends where life is real.

Pullmann: So art is really lying?

Muse: It's an agreement with its audience, this As-If is obvious. That's its truth. But when applied to life that would of course be completely inappropriate, dangerous even.

Pullmann: Hm. And why's that?

Muse: Go try to buy something with counterfeit money, and then you'll know why!

Translation by Amber Lane