

Muse: Am I bothering you Mr. Pullmann?  
Pullmann: Yes... no... just a second Ms. Muse. I'm working on a project you see.  
Muse: That sounds very interesting. May I know what it's about?  
Pullmann: Yes of course! Take a look!  
Muse: A city map? Are you becoming an architect?  
Pullmann: Not at all. I'm going to build a beer tent here, directly in front of the entrance to the subway.  
Muse: Brilliant! And?  
Pullmann: And there will be free beer for everyone who takes it upon themselves to be confronted with the misery of the thirsty while drinking, shown on this screen here.  
Muse: That's just appalling Pullmann!  
Pullmann: It should be too. This project has to startle Ms. Muse, offend, take risks, do you understand?  
Muse: I'm afraid I do... and what is it you hope to achieve ?  
Pullmann: The people will be taped while they're drinking and watching.  
Muse: What for Pullmann?  
Pullmann: To document their reactions. Then it will be shown in the art realm.  
Muse: Wait a minute! If I understand correctly you want to make an art video out of the whole thing?  
Pullmann: Great idea isn't it? That's what it's all about: total interaction!  
Muse: But it can't be about that!  
Pullmann: Why not? There were a lot of these kinds of art projects already.  
Muse: I was afraid you'd say that. But be advised that this is hypocritical in incomprehensible ways and immoral.  
Pullmann: Hm. And what Ms. Muse is wrong with it?  
Muse: Do I really have to explain it to you Pullmann! You cannot make ART out of the misery of others!  
Pullmann: Why not? ART draws attention!  
Muse: ART does nothing because ethics and aesthetics are opposites. You either do something for a good deed or for art's sake. But never both!  
Pullmann: I don't understand.  
Muse: Listen Pullmann, aesthetics is at an ironic distance to reality. That means aesthetics knowingly makes something that's APPARENT about reality to its object. It makes a staging out of reality, a street theater the viewer can follow comfortably, uncompromised and voyeuristically.  
Pullmann: But ART is no longer AESTHETIC Ms. Muse!  
Muse: What is it then?  
Pullmann: It considers itself an everyday practicality! Interventional!...Like a journey along the boundaries between the disciplines. That's exactly what supposedly makes it so incredibly interesting: its departure from traditional domains.  
Muse: Who says that?  
Pullmann: The director of a well known Museum of Contemporary Art for example.

Muse: I'm familiar with this phrase Pullmann. Killing two birds with one stone.  
Pullmann: Meaning?  
Muse: Art and reality are equally leveled and meet at the same playground.  
Pullmann: At the same playground you say? But that's not what's meant. It's about human consciousness; it's a serious concern through and through!  
Muse: That's the lie. Concern is abused to make ART and art is abused to sugarcoat the abuse. The truth is, it's an end in itself.  
Pullmann: Those are harsh words coming out of your soft mouth Ms. Muse. And where in lies this end in itself?  
Muse: I'll tell you! Weak artists often search for strong medians to make themselves interesting.  
Pullmann: OH! So you mean like me Ms. Muse?  
Muse: In this case you're right to feel in question.  
Pullmann: But I just wanted to...  
Muse: Exactly Pullmann! You JUST wanted to! And that's not enough in art, as you should already know.  
Pullmann: Hm. Are you a little angry with me?  
Muse: Mhm.... a little. But you know what, a real muse can't always be encouraging. Sometimes she has to smack the artists on their fingers to protect them from their own stupidity.

Translation by Amber Lane