

- Muse: Are you in a good mood today Mr. Pullmann?
Pullmann: Absolutely! Let me kiss your hand Ms. Muse, I'm so happy you're here.
Muse: Hey! Stop that! I'm not some floozy from genteel ladies. Why are you in such high spirits?
Pullmann: I finally understand what art is!
Muse: Let me hear it.
Pullmann: It's ironic Ms. Muse.
Muse: Oh really? I told you that if I remember correctly.
Pullmann: And I thought about it!
Muse: Very commendable Pullmann, so tell me what you've found out.
Pullmann: It uses subtle mockery so that it can react to the confusion in our environment.
Muse: Hm. Well why not as well. But actually it was meant differently.
Pullmann: Well? But irony is subtle mockery isn't it?
Muse: In the trivial sense Pullmann. When used earnestly, the original sense of the word is meant obviously.
Pullmann: Isn't it that already?
Muse: That's what I'm saying! When referring to art, irony means its constitutive pretence; the being crazy perspective in relation to that of everyday life.
- Pullmann: You're saying it's crazy?
Muse: DISPLACED
Pullmann: That calms me down Ms. Muse, because you often hear that artists are crazy.
Muse: Enough of that nonsense. Artists aren't any crazier than other people.
Pullmann: But genius and insanity are...
Muse: Pity, Pullmann! Mostly artists are just stupid. Do you want to know now in what way art is ironic?
Pullmann: Badly Ms. Muse.
Muse: This is due to its aesthetic state. You do know what aesthetics is, don't you?
Pullmann: Yes. Aesthetics is the teaching of beauty.
Muse: Not at all Pullmann!
Pullmann: I want to be right at least once.
Muse: Aesthetics comes from the Greek Aesthesis - the senses.
Pullmann: Aha.
Muse: That's why the equation of art and aesthetics signifies its specific orientation to the phenomenal world, which is accessible to the senses. Do you know what I'm talking about Pullmann?
Pullmann: Like with the eyes. Seeing plays an unbelievable role, especially with painters, you know? Seeing in fine arts is absolutely...
Muse: Well done!

Pullmann: It's rather easy.
Muse: The correlation is somewhat more complicated Pullmann. Because contrary to normal life art simply does not accept sensory impressions or feelings as trace appearances; rather it thematizes, focuses, moves them towards the center.

Pullmann: What you're saying is absolutely correct Ms. Muse. I've also often...
Muse: Now be careful! Because something strange happens as a result; a doubling; an echo. It's not about mere perception and feeling anymore, it's about the perception of the perceived, about the feeling of being felt. And irony arises from exactly this point. Because between the perception of the perceived and the feeling of being felt a gap emerges; a resonance chamber.

Pullmann: And that's a bad thing Ms. Muse?
Muse: It's the central moment of art Pullmann! Irony lies in this disassociation of aesthetics from its object, which is impossible in everyday reality. That's why it requires simulation, staging or contemptuously said: deceptions.
But at the same time it opens a fantastic possibility to see life and the world differently.

Pullmann: What you're saying is very interesting Ms. Muse. And why is art now ironic?
Muse: Were you not listening? Art is ironic because it aesthetically breaks open the environment and has to replace its lost objects through simulation. Is it clear now?

Pullmann: yes yes it is... Ms. Muse. That means, to tell you the truth...
I didn't understand a word.
Muse: It doesn't matter Pullmann. The painter in you thankfully, has known all along.

Translation by Amber Lane