PULLMANN AND MUSE 25

"Sketch of a Woman"

Muse: Are you repeating an early childhood phase Mr. Pullmann?

Pullmann: For reasons of picturesque restraint Ms. Muse. I'm practicing context art.

Muse: You don't say! Pullmann: Great isn't it?

Muse: I'm not so sure. Where is the context?

Pullmann: But it's obvious: the purpose of this object doesn't lie in its

accomplishment by the artist, but rather in the references envisaged by

them.

Muse: And those would be?

Pullmann: The allusion to male chauvinistic infantile sketches found in some public

bathrooms.

Muse: Very interesting!

Pullmann: Really?

Muse: Disgusting Pullmann! It's an attack on all decency and the due respect you

owe to the art of painting!

Pullmann: That's exactly the message Ms. Muse! It refers to reprehensible sexism

and that's why it uses this means of expression. It works perfectly with this... this... genderer... well you know – debate over the sexes right?

Muse: You're asking me? I'm not in charge of that. But if I were, you would

definitely learn something!

Pullmann: Why's that Ms. Muse?

Muse: Because your idea of gender relations is just as adventurous as what

you've scribbled there.

Pullmann: Your judgment is crushing!

Muse: As it should be. Or else my praise would be worthless.

Pullmann: And what should I do now half way to becoming a context artist?

Muse: It would be best to turn around quickly or go ask a curator.

Pullmann: Why a curator?

Muse: Because it comes from them! From people who mix up having ideas with

art anyways.

Pullmann: You don't consider having ideas to be art Ms. Muse?

Muse: As little as talking about swimming as swimming. What's missing is the

movement in water.

Pullmann: But I was in some way in the water! After all I have made this ... well ...

not so beautiful painting as a contribution to an idea.

Muse: You didn't even dip your big toe in! Besides, art doesn't provide any

contribution to anything.

Pullmann: That's how it's understood in the art realm nowadays though.

Muse: Listen Pullmann: if art was made to make contributions to themes, then

that would contradict its aesthetic state.

Pullmann: Why's that?

Muse: Because it would have thus changed the level! In fact art doesn't give

away any point of view, which could be considered as views on its subject

but rather on the transformation of its subject.

Pullmann: And that means?

Muse: The misunderstanding of art as a means to comment on something

appropriate. Then neither the truth or correctness indicates arts success nor the error its failure. It's about its power to resolve the subject in itself.

Pullmann: Once again I don't understand anything Ms. Muse.

Muse: But it's very simple Pullmann! Here; your sketch of a woman. If she's

considered art then it's not important if you are right with your claims or what your intentions are, or even if you yourself are sexist expressed in it. What does matter is the lack of power of imagination, which brings art to

its truest form.

Pullmann: Well I just thought because of the context...

Muse: Those are just empty phrases. Art's always been contextual. Criterion is

that context resolves itself in art and not the other way around!

Pullmann: So you're saying I should have passionately put my back into it and

painted this figure better?

Muse: Don't make yourself sound dumb Pullmann! It's not about wild passion or

fussiness!

Pullmann: What then?

Muse: Attention of course, which is required by artistic action! You do have that

when you don't have to update your "artistic sense".

Pullmann: It's not easy with you Ms. Muse! You always have to criticize something.

Muse: That's not true.

Pullmann: Yes it is! Now I actually don't find my sketch to be all that bad. Maybe I

should... just a little there...

Muse: You should absolutely! Continue painting it.

Pullmann: Are you serious? Do you not have an aversion to sketches in bathrooms?

Muse: Why should I? There are bathroom walls covered with grandiose

drawings, dirty, offensive drawings, which overshadow a lot of things

already considered great art somewhere else.

Pullmann: ... how do you know Ms. Muse?

Translation by Amber Laine