

Muse: Interesting Mr. Pullmann.
Pullmann: Is it Ms. Muse? Today things couldn't be going better.
Muse: It shows too! What you're doing here appears downright *artistic*.
Pullmann: It is. Finally painting is joined together directly with art again!
Muse: Exactly. In fact, so much so as if it had been practiced and weren't any problems. That's why I said *artistic*.
Pullmann: Wait! Do I hint maybe just a soft touch of mockery in your speech?
Muse: Absolutely not. I call an act of origin artistic when its means to an artistic appearance runs ahead. That happens quite often.
Pullmann: What *happens* quite often? I don't understand.
Muse: That kind of simulation Pullmann. It looks like art, virtuously laid out and only the absolute eye of a Muse can recognize that *art* was there before the painting.
Pullmann: But how is it supposed to be otherwise Ms. Muse?
Muse: The other way around of course! You're like a seducer; a fake lover who understands how to deceive women.
Pullmann: You must be mistaken. I'm far from those kinds of intentions and I went about my work with the best knowledge and belief.
Muse: Of course! The best seducers believe their own lies.
Pullmann: What? You think this work is a lie?
Muse: What else Pullmann?
Pullmann: And why is that your opinion?
Muse: It's not real! *Art* sits like candles on a birthday cake. As if you had painted ART and not the painting.
Pullmann: Do you mean to say it would be kitschy?
Muse: *Artistic* is not *kitschy*, although kitsch can be artistic. You can even find artistic in the highest regions or recognized masters.
Pullmann: That calms me down a bit Ms. Muse!
Muse: But this work is, with all due respect, artistic and kitschy.
Pullmann: Oh!
Muse: I'm sorry I have to tell you that Pullmann. It's artistic because it brings such a dashing élan into play pretending to be art, and it's kitschy in its substance because it's made out of cheap clichés used speculatively.
Pullmann: Thank you Ms. Muse. You just murdered the artist in me.
Muse: I've praised you so often that you should be able to handle this. Should I just be nice and lie?
Pullmann: It would have been better to me.
Muse: I can't have consideration for that.
Pullmann: But the painting is rather abstract; non-representational. Why do you say it's cheap clichés?
Muse: What do you think? That I can't see through that? Non-representation is no reservation for refugees of criticism! Most in the field have been copied a hundred times, flattened and recycled.

Pullmann: There are abstract pictorial clichés?
Muse: In abundance.
Pullmann: But kitsch is really more those belling stags; those sail boats at sunset, those floating elves...
Muse: There's kitsch in every category Pullmann. And the worst is the artistically reshaped.
Pullmann: Can you still leave a good word to say about me! Why is it so?
Muse: Because the artistic should make the kitsch disappear. It's whitewash; but in reality it's itself kitsch; a staging of the appealing.
Pullmann: Yes, but why shouldn't art be appealing Ms. Muse? Why shouldn't it seem virtuous, skillful, brilliant, and masterful?
Muse: Because it HAS to be Pullmann, not just APPEAR to be.
Pullmann: Isn't art overall an appearance? A do as if? Haven't you said so yourself?
Muse: It lies its truth yes. But it has never legitimized the artist to be a fraud. Otherwise its lie would become the truth.
Pullmann: STOP, STOP Ms. Muse!
Muse: Well Mr. Pullmann?
Pullmann: This art...what is it actually?
Muse: Apparently not exactly what you think Pullmann.
Pullmann: ...damnit...

Translation by Amber Lane