

WHAT IS ART?

A theory based on one-liners

WHAT IS ART?

“What is art – ask yourself that question every day.” I stumbled upon this suggestion by the Danish artist Albert Mertz some years ago in a text by former rector of the royal Danish academy of fine arts Else Marie Bukdahl. My plan was thereafter to do a one-liner every day for a year. But off course there came gaps. And off course a number of one-liners that were quickly scribbled on loo paper and the like, went lost.

But at least here are some of the answers. They might add up to a sort of art theory.

Looking upon them now I reluctantly have to admit my tendency to explain the world by using sexual references. I also see, that I must be cautious not to be tempted into that trap that most artists fall into – that of negativity and dissatisfaction.

My art theory as one-liners:

WHAT IS ART?

Good art makes me feel lonely.

Letting art historians run the art world is like letting paedophiles run kindergartens.

Art doesn't make anyone happy – but it makes it easier to believe in happiness.

Art can never compete with nature's beauty – and shouldn't since it then would become as boring as a sunset in the South Pacific.

WHAT IS ART?

Art is a hopeless attempt to eat with your asshole and shit with your mouth.

Art is an allergic reaction.

The real reward from art doesn't come while you are watching it, but afterwards when you're looking at nature again.

Art is healthy for everyone – except those who make it.

WHAT IS ART?

Art is the longest on-going search in the history of mankind for his creator.

The only real danger with art is when those wanting to be artists are not admitted into the art world (that cost some 50 million people their lives in the last century).

The only limit art has is becoming something else than art.

Art is a window in a house not yet built.

WHAT IS ART?

Art is everything that gives appetite for more art.

Art for arts sake is like drinking for the sake of being able to piss.

An artist is a pop star just without the money, fans, drugs, sex and glamour.

When dumb people say they like art, its like illiterates saying they like literature.

WHAT IS ART?

An artist is someone who might make your daughter pregnant.

An artist is most often someone with absolutely no talent other than the talent to believe that he has a talent for everything.

Political art is like using a taxi to get across the street.

Strong content can save weak gesture.
But strong gesture can't save weak content.

WHAT IS ART?

If one could make art, without having to be an artist that would be preferable.

Societies, where there is modern art scene are characterized by the inhabitants spending more time talking than they spend eating, dancing, singing, fucking and sleeping.

Very few artists become famous – even fewer become rich and extremely few become content. So the real ambitious artist skips the money and fame and goes straight for becoming content.

Art is a parking lot for frustrations.

WHAT IS ART?

Art is time and space fucking each other.

Art is yesterdays time and tomorrows space brought together.

Art is a retrograde ejaculation.

Art is a toilet where we can flush out everything we don't understand.

WHAT IS ART?

Art only makes sense in a senseless world.

Art is like the invention of marzipan – it's making the best of whatever you've got in a critical situation.

Art is like jeopardy- the answer is already there, it has always been there – it's just waiting for the question.

Art is the closest we will get connecting the past with the present and the future.

WHAT IS ART?

We have too much art based on invention – that is known components put together in a new way. We need art that is based on exploration – that is entering the dark, walking into the unknown.

Only within the world of art will man attempt to force something beautiful to become ugly.

Art is for the average. The stupid can't extract anything from art. And the intelligent make their own art inside their heads.

Art makes the eyes behave like the mouth.

WHAT IS ART?

We can thank art for sunsets – in many so-called primitive societies they don't even notice their sunsets.

Making art is like watching porn with your eyes shut.

If you don't think about the art you make – it becomes too pretty.
If you think - it becomes too ugly.

If you as an artist don't work in a way corresponding with your true nature, you will always end where you started – with yourself.

WHAT IS ART?

Only within the world of art will man attempt to force a penis to become a vagina.

Art is taking beauty to the operating theatre and operating without anaesthesia.

Making art is postponing the day one realizes that there is no plan for and no meaning with life.

Art is a nymphomaniac so obsessed with trying something new, that she has forgotten she has a vagina.

WHAT IS ART?

Art is a good way of dealing with the subjects, which under other circumstances lead to anxiety and insanity

The paradox of art is, that in small quantities it makes sense, but presented in large quantities it exposes that the world doesn't make sense.

Art is a will without a way.
Philosophy is a way without a will.

Art is wisdom is bathed in ignorance.

WHAT IS ART?

Abstract expressionism, however aggressive, is a tranquilizer in a geometrical postmodern world.

People who make a living of telling jokes are clowns. This includes the advertising man, the stand-up comedian and the artist.

We haven't gained much by replacing churches with art museums. In both cases we often go on Sundays. We act humble. We speak softly. And most of the time we are stiff bored.

Art is a cunt that only gets wet by the idea of not being a cunt.