

Thread And Word

Seen Not Heard: The Choice of Listening to Objects

Setting and Context

They say, or, it is said,
that we, presumably people,
should try to find out what it's like to
walk in someone else's shoes.

[L] Hopefully not through puddles.

And to see from someone else's perspective.

[R] What size feet do they have?

I don't see how that's a matter that concerns you.

But why see from *this* perspective?

What horizon can be found?

A sainsbury's local and a branch of HSBC.

We're not exactly Gormley's figures on Crosby beach here, are we?

[R] Don't get the reference.

Sorry.

[L] You can't see the trees for the branches.

Oh, there are trees actually.

[R] Position can limit perspective.

[L+R] Step out of your own for a minute.

Work and Place

To be given a place, though not given speech.
Assigned, to a silent androgyny,
anodyne, almost instinctively,
Sunrise East July and Sunrise East October.
Is working from this place acceptable
if it enables the general well-being of we who can talk?

[R] Yes, being fixed like this wasn't our choice, but...

[L] No. Being here is not worth that.

At least you don't have to worry about upwards or downwards mobility?
Any mobility.

[R] We feel stuck here.

[L] Consistently, the opportunity to move on our own terms has been denied to us.

[R] I would like to ride on a bus one day.

We all have dreams.

[L] It is not a matter of dreaming, or practicality; it's a matter of will.
To act, to speak, to be heard.
But you impose upon us,
as the perennially loud-mouthed.

Sorry if this sounds accusing,
but we are not accustomed to being listened to,
in this way,
There are many things that we have never been able,
to express before so,
Of course we sound angry.

[R] It is a new experience.

OK.

Recognition

[L] You have never had to consider reasons for why we in our position, might be subject to disproportionate suffering.

No hang on, that's an assumption.

[R] Let us make those, and you can listen before responding.

[L] In a society that makes such a song and dance about how everyone is equal, it seems unfair that what keeps us where and who and how we have to be seem so often hidden beneath the surface.

You are excluded from the dance?

It is a question of recognition?

As if to say that what we say of you is more valid than what you say of us, when the reverse might equally be true?

Must we recognise your suffering?

Do objects suffer?

[R] We would like to define what we are for ourselves.

[L] Yes.

A child passes by in a pram and asks, "what are they?"

No, really, that happens.

[L] It hurts when we cannot answer for ourselves as you can.

Bright though tethered to the ground,

as if crossing through as double,

struck down,

[R] by who?

[L] We saw.

[R] Are we?

[L] To say,
[R] this?

Changing Position and Finally, Communication

[L + R] Change your position, to change our position.
Make pathways of communication,
more accessible,
allow voices to multiply,
and harmonize by
shifting to find the perspectives that
gain us a vitalized sense
of representation.
Object to listening or listening to objects.
Conflict, creation.
Breaking out of immobility.

And if words now come between us,
through these we share,
at least for a moment,

\
solidarity.

<https://hmmyeswellhm.wordpress.com>

