

Paddle 8

Artist's Multiple: Tony Tasset on Vagueness, Pants and Having A Good Cry

July 10, 2014

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My exhibition opening prep usually consists of...

- a) A drink
- b) A snooze
- c) Some exercise
- d) A distracting escape
- e) Other: *I look in the mirror? and have a good cry*

In my opinion, art makes a city...

- a) Electric
- b) An important destination
- c) Welcoming
- d) Rich
- e) Other: *all of the above*

Monuments should be...

- a) Permanent
- b) Fragile
- c) Celebratory
- d) Sites of learning
- e) Other: *made by me*

The most interesting thing about art is...

- a) Its social role
- b) Its aesthetic qualities
- c) Its financial value
- d) Its autonomy
- e) Other: *its vagueness*

Favorite item of clothing is...

- a) Socks
- b) Shoes
- c) Shirt
- d) Pants *never leave the house without them*
- e) Other: *without them*

The most influential art movement of the 20th century was...

- a) Surrealism
- b) Minimalism
- c) Conceptual art
- d) Pop Art
- e) Other

If I could live and work anywhere it would be...

- a) Marfa
- b) New York
- c) The Bahamas
- d) London
- e) Other: *Chicago*

I hope my work and practice is seen as...

- a) Spooky
- b) Thoughtful
- c) Critical
- d) Beautiful
- e) Other: *genius*

Favorite horror film:

- a) *Friday the 13th*
- b) *Rosemary's Baby*
- c) *The Shining*
- d) *The Exorcist*
- e) Other: *The Passion of the Christ*

If I weren't an artist I'd be...

- a) A politician
- b) An ophthalmologist
- c) A lawyer
- d) A city planner
- e) Other: *a ventriloquist*

I source a lot of my inspiration from...

- a) My pupils
- b) Museums
- c) Everyday items
- d) The internet
- e) Other: *more successful artists*

If I could only live with one creative tool I'd choose...

- a) A laptop
- b) A paintbrush
- c) A pen
- d) A camera
- e) Other: *An assistant*

While Tony Tasset may modestly credit a large portion of his creative inspiration to “more successful artists,” the art world has long been eyeing his large-scale multimedia works with enthusiastic appreciation, fittingly so as his enormous “pop conceptual” monuments are meant to be ogled. From “Eye,” a three-storey retina sculpture that rolled around Chicago to the sneaky trompe l’oeil snowman that refuses to melt and the fittingly titled “Artists Monument” (which featured 392,486 artist names etched onto a candy-colored metal monolith) that featured in this year’s Whitney Biennial, Tasset’s work spans the spectrum from delightfully grotesque to playfully daring.

With the launch of the benefit auction for the Anderson Ranch Art Center (which includes one of Tasset’s signature multilayered resin food paintings), we sent the artist multiple choice questionnaire to quiz him on his preferences in food, film and back-up profession. His responding words and selections were, of course, as wittily eclectic as his works themselves.