

## CREATIVITY IS CONNECTING THINGS

Esther Cohen

*“When you ask creative people how they did THINGS they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. That's because they were able to connect experiences they've had and synthesize new things.”*

—Steve Jobs

1

What does creativity  
mean? A very dark woman  
maybe she is tall  
stood near a short pink pig  
at a big international  
airport. Maybe Singapore  
or Dubai. What did  
they say, and how  
did their words help them both?

2

There isn't a person alive,  
anywhere of any age,  
who isn't creative.

Creativity is like  
eating. It doesn't  
have an age,  
or a sexual identity.

Maybe a color.

Maybe not.

More orange  
than white.

Though white  
could be creative.

We all might not  
sing, but the world  
would be better  
if we could.

3

Children  
when they draw

*Creativity is Connecting Things*

see how easily they put  
elephants next to apples  
tall women near  
pink pigs

If we let them.

They write plays  
dance without thinking  
about what  
they look like.

When we visit old people  
in homes, even people  
with deep problems  
they are happier  
when they hear music,  
when they've had a chance  
to make birds from paper bags  
or do all they imagine.

**4**

What we do  
how we do it  
is entirely connected.

We help each other

## CREATIVE LIVES

when we work:

serving food

building roads

teaching cleaning

putting out fires.

How can we add

creativity to the way

we work to the way

we live how can we

be who we know

we are?

### 5 Ed Said

This morning a friend

called and asked the question

(he is in the workforce business)

how much money do I make

writing poems?

Economics

of the poetry business,

financial breakdown.

Economics is not usually

a poem, though it could be  
in the right hands  
but those hands  
aren't mine. We  
all know no one writes a poem  
for money. Songs either  
although if you can find  
Someone Big  
to sing your song then maybe.  
Social media person once  
suggested I tweet  
my poems to Oprah  
if she read them  
if she liked them  
maybe. I sent her one poem  
but she did not tweet back.

## **6 We**

Our work, all our work  
whatever it is we do  
to earn a living  
or because

## CREATIVE LIVES

we have no choice because we are poems  
every one of us all our work  
putting cans of peas  
on the Price Chopper shelf  
taking a photograph of the woman  
with one leg delivering  
mail she's  
making sure we get  
a handwritten letter from Aunt  
Ruthie in a nursing home all those people  
taking care of Ruthie in the nursing home  
giving her baths and meals  
making her laugh even though  
she doesn't remember why  
Paul who mows lawns and chain smokes  
when he stands behind the barn  
Paul is working so is Roman  
the dishwasher at Betty's Luncheonette  
in Leeds New York if we could understand  
how it is that all the jobs we do  
are part of one big job how small  
and large make up the whole of life  
how work is always we