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?
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.

Children when they draw
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
ey 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
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
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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