

An Artist Statement by Daniel Dugas

from a lecture at the University of Lethbridge – October 2004 / updated in February 2007

So what is it that I do?

What excites me?

What makes me angry?

What makes me tick and go on as an artist?

I am interested in everything but maybe the word everything is too big.

In 1990, I was finishing a residency at the Banff Center and I thought that maybe I could find some work and stay in the area.

I went downtown to a construction site. I made sure that I was wearing my steel-toed boots.

I asked to speak with the foreman.

He came walking over,

and I remember that he did not look too happy that day,

or maybe he was just a crabby kind of guy.

Anyway he said: "What do you want"?

I answered, "I am looking for work."

He asked me what I could do, and I said, "Everything".

He looked at me in Total Disgust and said: "Nobody can do everything, " and he walked away.

I was left standing in this huge hole of mud, kind of stunned.

Maybe instead of saying 'everything,' I could have said 'many things,' and I could have added that I like to learn.

The thing is that I am interested in many things.

I am interested in construction,

how things are built,

how people work together to put something up.

I am curious about TAYLORISM: The Principles of Scientific Management.

I am interested in knowing why the foreman looked so angry when he said that nobody does everything.

And, as I don't know what building they were constructing, I am still curious to know if they put brick or stucco on the façade.

I am also interested in poetry

In the idea of going on a sailboat

In insects - and especially the ants

In patterns on wallpaper

In barcodes

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In extended memory
In Martha Stewart and bad financial advice
In woodworking and the history of glue
In walking long enough to forget where I am going

In TCP IP CBC DV NTSC ASCII HTML GPS XML URL
In Black Boxes which are really orange
In Time to Live
In Smileys:
Ta Ta For Now
Smile
Smile with a large nose
Laughing hard
Screaming
Drooling
Ill with the flu

I am interested in Open source codes and distribution
In wikis
In people having a chance to write
In blogs
The story of our world
In inventing meanings

I am interested in cryptography
In the Morse code
In algorithms of all sorts
In the frequency of letters in texts
In the absence of the letter E in the novel A Void

I am interested in loops
In dead ends
In spam
In people working madly to distribute that shit
In people working madly to dodge it
In indexes,

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And all of the things that are left un-indexed
And all of those that will never make the cut

I am interested in fungus and rot
In weird and beautiful mushrooms that grow in the dark woods

In information explosion
In logic and in Pascal,
who said a long time ago that the heart has its reasons, which reason does not know
In Ludwig Wittgenstein, who said that our difficulty is, that we keep speaking of simple objects,
and are unable to mention a single one

I am interested in questioning the digital divide
In crossing bridges
In finding common grounds
In trying to breathe

I am interested in the black BMW's
In the shiny Mercedes
In groups like Earth on Empty
Artists in Action

In wealth
In the Theatre of the Oppressed and Augusto Boal
In Saul Alinsky and Community Organizing
In the words of Winston Churchill, who said that
Money is like a sixth sense, essential for the complete use of the five others.

In stock markets
In crashes
In rise of opportunities
In bad luck
In the absence of luck
In Boom or bust economies
In Power
In mechanisms of exchange

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In high tech and in low tech things of all kind

I am interested in parsing text files

In Apple C

Apple X

Apple V

Esc

Esc

Option

command

F

O

In apples with worms

In the names that are given to computer viruses

Like Clone War 547

C Magic

COCO2099

Crazypunk.500

Dark_Revenge.1024

DarkApocalypse

Tiny.family

Or the names that are given to racehorses

Like Exaggerate This

Or Trick Again

Or Sightseek who won \$630.000 so far this year

I am interested in databases

In electrical diagrams

In the taste of wine

In Pong

In ping pong

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I am fascinated with weather,
hurricanes in particular -

I am interested in models of analysis

And in seeing how they can be used in an art context

I am interested in the names that are given to future storms

Andrea
Barry
Chantal
Dean
Erin
Felix
Gabrielle
Humberto
Ingrid
Jerry
Karen
Lorenzo
Melissa
Noel
Olga
Pablo
Rebekah
Sebastien
Tanya
Van
Wendy

Those are the storm names for 2007

The most intense hurricane to have hit the mainland United States remained unnamed.

It was in 1935 and was a category 5

With a Minimum Pressure of 892 mb

I am concerned about the repercussion of things

What happens when something is done?

What are the consequences of all actions?

I am interested in the politics of everything

The marketing of the politics

The reduction of the marketing

Newspapers

The online editions of the newspapers

The top stories

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The breaking news

The exclusive interviews

The talk shows

I am interested in the wit of the guests

The waste of time

The length of life

The shadows of puppets on the walls

Brightly lit by pepper kits

Sold in advance

Sold out to the crowd

I am amazed that Oprah is on the cover of her magazine every month

I read that Oprah is the leading source for information about life and love

I am interested in pocket PCs

In the culture of pick pocket pcs

In the point and click

In the click and disappear

In the cyclical nature of fashion

In Simple Text Messages

In Thoreau talking about the telegraph

In how loud people talk on their cell phones on the buses

On the complexity of the discussions

And how others are trapped inside this dialog

Delicate choices have to be made between broccoli and asparagus

Between Bits & Bites and Vegetable Thins

All during the ride home on the train.

I am puzzled on why there is a 1-800 number on every box and every bag.

I have never bookmarked anything of Kraft, Pepsi or GM on my browser.

I like to look in the dictionaries

And bounce from one word to another

From one image to another

I believe that the world can be explain through anecdotes

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