

A1. OBEY

Words - Richard Parry

I think if you're a painter
In London now and
You want to be serious
You have to accept
You're working in a desert and
You have to address
The culture of your own work
Starting from zero.

And you have to actively repel
And be antagonistic all the time
To these consoling illusions of community
Which are really no different
To propaganda
Or 'We Are City Island'
Advertorial column inches.

So maybe I'm painting
OBEY paintings since 2009
Because it makes me feel artistic to paint
OBEY paintings since 2009.
Not because I have an urge in my blood to paint
OBEY paintings since 2009.
Not because it's part of my cultural community to paint
OBEY paintings since 2009.

And maybe it feels avant-garde
To exhibit them
Inside a Mark E Smith tribute foam party
Inside an emerging project space
Inside Catford (but not Lambeth, no no no)
Inside London when
The entire social franchise is saying
You are not real
You are not the artist
That Shepard Fairey was

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