

a future in British steel

a questionnaire by Gudrun Wurlitzer

1. Your name?

Madeleine Boschan

2. What do you like about your studio space?

That it's my studio space.

3. Do you prefer to work with music or in silence?

I listen to a lot of stuff, all sorts of things keep coming out of this little box ... but for the most part, I work in silence.

4. What is your favourite medium besides the one you work with?

drawing

5. If you could only have one piece of art in your life, what would it be?

a Katana

6. What is your favourite material to work with?

metal and measuring tools

7. What was the best advice given to you as an artist?

You know, my father was an inventor. He was able to find solutions for problems of various kinds, in the fields of electrical engineering, and so forth. He told me that if someone says 'can't' this shows you what to do, that there are no given things, instead, you've got to invent them. He also told me that my mother was always right even when she was wrong. So, I am rather brutal than indifferent. Some artists prefer a stream of consciousness. Not me. I beat people up.

8. What is your favourite colour?

You shouldn't isolate a single colour as colours are relational beings. Their appearances mutually depend on the specific constellation they happen to be in, thus, my preferences are pretty situationist, too.

9. What themes do you pursue?

Probably ethology and behavioural biology, questions related to the origins of social exchange and the construction of ritualized social orders as well as their dystopic collapse. I strive to make perceptible the interconnectedness, the simulated and the doubtful of today's post-industrial societies ...

10. When did you start to work as an artist?

Sweet sixteen I was.

11. Which film have you seen at least three times?

Le Mépris

12. Favourite places besides your studio?

A forest, possibly.

13. A movie is being produced about yourself. Which actor should play your part?

Michael Fassbender

14. If you couldn't be an artist, what would you do?

If I couldn't build sculptures, I think I would be quite a problem. I'd definitely be a pain in the arse to the people who have to put up with me. I just wouldn't know what to do with myself. Or maybe not, perhaps I'd be turning a disc and, in turn, being turned as well, I guess, making the best of it, having a future in British steel, or watching the tide at the Belgian shore, some sort of silly thing like that. But no, obviously, I'm not perfect but the thing I seem to be best at is sculpture.

15. Where would you love to install your art?

The sculptures bring about their own places.

16. Who is your favourite sculptor?

Brancusi, Lehmbruck, Caro, and Knoebel – for that matter.

17. Do you collect yourself?

African ritual sculptures and objects. Passionately.

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