On Being Suzi Gablik:

Avi Allen

Suzi Gablik’s thoughts and writing have been, and continue to be, a huge influence on my art practice and, indeed, my thinking and being with(in) the world. As such, I was delighted to be invited to take part in Fern’s project to re -enact 7 Conversations Before the End of Time. It was touching that Fern felt it right that I should contribute within *Making Art about Centipedes*, a conversation from the book that particularly touches me.

The strategy of simultaneously listening and repeating from a pre-recording made by Fern and partner Phil was challenging.  I was nervous at first but perhaps due to knowing this conversation well (I feel we have become good friends) I soon became immersed in the concentration and joy of recreating it with Fern.

Having previously encountered the *Conversations Before the End of Time* reading silently in my personal space I found it to be a very different experience re-enacting it out loud in a public context. There was a renewed appreciation of the practice of dialogue… of generous dialogue and relation with, one that involves an attentive, caring listening and deeply considered responses.

This was such a valuable experience in which Fern opened and tenderly held a ‘space’ for all present to re- imagine pressing issues surrounding Art and Ecology.

I am excited by the future potentials that Fern’s project has seeded.

Diolch yn Fawr Fern Smith.

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