

## One & Other Project

*Hello my name is Kate Rowles and I'm interviewing you for the Wellcome Trust as you are taking part in Antony Gormley's artwork One & Other. The date today is the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 the time is 5 25 a.m. If I can please ask you to say your full name, your age and where you come from.*

I'm Louise Lee, I'm 28 I think, the last time I checked and I currently live in Chipping which is near Preston, Lancashire.

*And how are you today?*

Wired a bit on caffeine but otherwise surviving. I would like to go to bed but I have to save that for quite a few hours from now.

*What was it that made you apply to be part of One & Other do you think?*

Originally I wasn't entirely sure what was working, me and my boyfriend run a band, we thought, "Oh we could do something musical" and then we realised that it was only one person up there and we thought, "Oh." We submitted our name anyway and then I forgot about it until the email came in at the end of the month and then I couldn't sleep that night when it came in because I'm sure whether I was actually coming to do it or not I decided I would because there would never be another chance to do anything like this again and it's completely against what I usually ... I never go in for putting myself up for show or anything so I thought I'm not going to do it, it's not going to come up again so I clicked 'accept'.

*And when you found out that you had got a place on the plinth what happened then?*

I told people and they said, "Go for it because, again, it's not something that comes up very regularly" so I did and then I spent time trying and thinking what on earth I'm actually going to do after seeing quite a number of varying people up there, it took a while but I got there eventually.

*And how did you decide that you wanted to spend your hour?*

I decided that because I'm quite a fun of Twitter and the internet and email the instantness of it, I thought I get a wide board and I've set up an account called *I'm on the Plinth* and people can interact with me live by sending me a message which I can then write on the white board for a short amount of time or they can send me a request to draw something and I have pointed out as a disclaimer that I'm not an artist so it won't be very good but it'll be interesting to see what people ask me to draw and it's all going to be very rude.

*And why did you decide to do this?*

... the whole project or...?

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*The way you decided to spend your hour?*

I thought it was a good idea because I'm not really good at making decisions myself so to have other people dictate what they want me to do was easier to me than having to specifically think of something completely specific to do and that way if all goes wrong I can blame everyone else I think.

*And how are you feeling about standing on the Fourth Plinth now that you are actually here?*

Better now that there are less people around. I know a couple of my friends who come in but it's a bit early to expect a lot of them unfortunately. They are all lazy bastards and I think I'm looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to get some good photos from there as well. I've = never really taken photos of this bit of London before because I've seen it so often I just don't bother but I'm looking forward to it.

*And overall what kind of experience are you hoping to have by taking part in the One & Other do you think?*

Perhaps it will briefly make me more confident about being looked at from many angles which I don't really enjoy usually but heights, I don't like heights, hopefully it'll help me get over my fear of heights as well but I think just make me a bit more rounded.

*Can I ask you to say a little bit about yourself?*

Okay, I've been living in Lancashire for the last year with my partner. Before that I was working for six years as a journalist for a regional newspaper in Wiltshire. Since moving up here I haven't had a job. I've been looking for one but unfortunately I chose to leave my job voluntarily about three seconds before the recession kicked in so it's not been so easy to find work and that's another reason why applying for the plinth was quite easy because if it came up I wasn't doing anything whatsoever in the week. But it turned out to be the weekend anyway so not too bad. Before I was a journalist I was at university studying media in Essex, in Southend, I grew up in Southend and I used to come to London lots so I kind of missed it since being in Wiltshire and being in Lancashire I kind of miss the whole London thing although I kind of tire of it a lot quicker now that I'm coming back as a visitor rather than someone who lives here regularly. I spent most of my time either looking for jobs, playing very nerdy computer games, surfing the internet using twitter, I make music at home on the keyboard although I don't actually ... I play the guitar and the keyboard. I'm not particularly good at it but I enjoy doing it anyway so that's basically what I do that and torment the cat.

*And who are you doing this for today taking part in One & Other?*

Me I expect. It's a bit selfish but it's not something I usually do so it's kind of

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interesting to see how I am coping with it in myself because it's just a very extraordinary thing to put yourself up on show you know. It's only an hour but whether I can sustain my idea for an hour, whether that many people are awake it would be interesting.

*How did you find being a journalist for the paper that you used to work for?*

It was quite an odd experience because I'm naturally quite inward and shy and it takes a while for me to get out of myself to put myself in a job which I said I wouldn't do. I didn't ever want to be a journalist, I wanted to make TV programmes but when I realised how difficult it was to get into TV and the amount of selling you've got to do I gave up on that idea but journalism was quite interesting and certainly that's something that brought me out of myself, having to meet with umpteen strangers all the time and having to deal with all sorts of things, you know, from someone who's husband died or silly things, not silly things, charity things, charity events and things like that and going to school. I enjoyed going to school, that was one of my favourite things, you've kind of got to entertain kids for a brief while while you are taking the photos, you have to sort of get them on your side, I quite enjoyed that about it.

*And are you hoping to get more work in this field?*

Not really, no, I kind of felt I got a bit trapped in it to begin with. I just couldn't get out of it so living was quite a good idea but I'm not sure what I want to do next. I've just been looking for admin but unfortunately because my background is so specialist it seems quite difficult to get some admin work. Not quite sure what I want to do ideally I'd like to sit at home playing computer games and get paid for it but that's fairly unlikely so I'm deciding on what career path to take with help from various local job agencies and helping people that help, employment partnerships.

*What are your ambitions?*

At some point me and my band will finish off our album, that's one of our ambitions. We certainly are going to finish our album ten times over the course of last year. I'd like to travel some more. I went to America for the first time this year that was good, we went to Minnesota in the winter which is about minus twenty degrees Celsius and I'm about to go somewhere which is equally as hot and I haven't got very many ambitions. I'd like to be able to learn another language, I think that's one of my other ambitions but there aren't many really other ambitions left, to be honest with you, I've done bits and bobs which make me happy this is quite a ... it's not been an ambition but it's only been around a while but it certainly is something different

*What kind of music are you making in the band?*

That's difficult to describe, we are kind of influenced by various acts, a lot of it is 80s like Divo and the Pet Shop Boys. I like a lot of French electronic pop music so when I make stuff by myself I try to imitate that but it doesn't really pay off. I tend to worry

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about free bars or something and then give up ... but it's kind of poppy, new wave, electronic stuff, it's difficult to describe.

*And do you have a name for your band?*

Oh yeah we are the *Attery Squash* named after a character in the Edward Lear poem which is the *Quangle Wangle's* hat I think it's called.

*And do you have, do you write lyrics as well?*

I don't although my partner is constantly urging me to write lyrics. I don't think I have ever written decent lyrics in my entire lifetime, it's always been really hard. He's the lyric writer he's got, he's a professional musician ... a professional musician whereas I'm just a dabbler really. I'm not very good at lyrics at all... I wrote a good poem once, a long time ago.

*And was it for your boyfriend that you moved to Lancashire?*

Yes, yes.

*And how are you finding it in Lancashire?*

It's very nice actually. We live quite rurally as well so it's quite remote quite quiet ... we used to live in Wiltshire, which is quite rural in itself. I live right on the high street so there were three pubs surrounding the bottom of my flat so it was pretty much noisy most of the time for an hour or so after kicking out time. So it's nice to be somewhere quiet. I find it difficult to ... I was in London a couple of weeks ago and I was at a friend's place and it was very noisy in the night and I just couldn't sleep, it was quite weird. I used to be able to sleep in the noise but not anymore.

*How did you meet your boyfriend?*

He's in a band. I met him the first time ten years ago after a gig at the garage in Highbury. We kept in contact for years and years over email on and off. We had various reasons for, music related reasons mostly, and then three or four years ago we went to see the Pet Shop Boys in Liverpool... about four years ago after that it sort of kicked off so that's ... we've been together, officially, together about three years.

*How would you describe yourself?*

A bit eccentric, a bit shy, I mumble. I'm a bit of a nerve ... that's really about it; I don't like to talk about myself too much although I probably have here. I'm not so keen on introspection too much.

*Why do you think that is?*

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Oh, I don't know what will come out if that happens.

*You worked in Southend, is that where you were born?*

Yes, I was born in Helford but yes I grew up in Southend.

*What was that like?*

Sometimes it was a very odd sort of town where I was when I was growing up because it was, I was growing up with ... before the invention of the Internet. When the Internet came along suddenly I found people liked the things I liked whereas when I was growing up in Southend it was very difficult to like things like the Pet Shop Boys or liking Star Trek or anything a bit odd like that. People don't like anything that goes against the norm. If you don't like football and you don't like, I think it was rave at the time, then you weren't worth talking to. So it's a very odd time. I spent a lot of time in my room drawing pictures of ... watching television; I think that was mostly it.

*And then where did you go to university?*

I stayed on at college in Southend to do my degree which I thought was best because I didn't like the idea of moving away. It was going to be more expensive and I wasn't ready for that I don't think and I think it was good in the end because I met good friends at college although I don't see them very often anymore but I think it was a good experience even though I wasn't away from home.

*And you are in Lancashire now. Do you think you will stay there in the future?*

I think so, as far as I am with my partner because he won't want to move and I don't have any desire to move anywhere else. Maybe Manchester possibly at some point when I get a job and can afford to move, I would not mind moving to Manchester just because there's a bit more going on, it's a bit more central but other than that I don't think I'll move again for a while.

*What's important to you in your life at the moment?*

Carrying on and not stopping because I can. If I just continue being unemployed and get a bit run down if I stop... then it would probably be crushing down and I'll hide under a duvet all day but otherwise it's keep plodding along until something happens. I have got a Christmas job which is [?] it's shift work, very early in the morning, but that keeps me going at the moment.

*And what do your friends and family think about you taking part in One & Other?*

Actually I chatted to my dad two days ago because I forgot to tell him. They are quite ... actually my boyfriend said to me as I was leaving he was proud of me for coming

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up here and doing it which was nice. And there's a lot of people who sort of leant their support wishing me luck today so that's quite nice that people actually paid attention because sometimes you sort of put things down on the internet sending messages to people and then you don't get much of a response but I had quite a lot of people saying good luck and they are going to send me messages so there was a worthy effort of staying up. I don't how many hours it will be when I get home.

*Is there anything else that you'd like to add or would like to mention before you stand on the plinth?*

Just a big thank you to everyone who is involved and everyone who is coming to see me and everyone who is going to send me messages, if they do, because otherwise it's going to be a very dull hour up there.

*Okay, thank you very much.*

Thank you.