

Vicki Bennett – No One Is An Island

Vicki Bennett (*Percy Faith - Do Re Mi*)

No one is an island. where do ideas come from? Are they our own or are we channelling some spark from a larger flame? In this programme, we examine the relationship between artists, writers, scientists and philosophers on the receiving, possession and transmission of ideas. Culture is a complex process of sharing and signification. Meanings are exchanged, adopted and adapted through acts of communication. The tools we use - the photocopier, camera, computer, encourage, in fact, insist upon the act of cutting, copying and pasting. It is second nature. Through memory and repetition, we learn.

Brion Gysin (*In The Beginning Was The Word*)

In the beginning, the beginning was the word, in beginning, the was the word, beginning the was the word. The beginning was in the word, the beginning the in was the word. In the was beginning of word, and was beginning the word. In was the wasn't the beginning of the word. The was in the beginning, the word was the beginning of the word.

Ergo Phizmiz *Philip Glass - Music With Changing Parts*

If I'm to broach the subject of ideas, the first thing that springs to mind is a sequence in one of David Attenborough's programmes, in which we see a chimpanzee holding a stick, and then inserting the stick into a piece of fallen tree. And then he pulls the stick out of the fallen tree, and on the stick, a load of termites, which he then eats. And this kind of leap of imagination that leads to survival, and an enhanced quality of life is, I think, central to the notion of what an idea is. We live in a culture where the notion of imagination is belittled. But looking at things like this, it's clear that to have an idea is really the mechanism by which we survive, and by which we continue to grow. In many ways, the whole notion of an idea is seeing something as something other than what it is. So the way that Leonardo would encourage his students to look at unkempt walls, and see the shapes and the creatures and the landscapes within them, I think integral to the idea, and this is why the dadaists and the surrealists with their ideas of collage have been so far reaching and still despite the co-option of surrealism by advertising, it is still powerful, this concept that one thing can transform into something else with this thing that I like to call The Leap where something transforms.

Brian Eno (*Mrs Miller - Catch A Falling Star*)

I want to look at what children do, if you watch children playing, what they're doing mostly is let's pretend, let's pretend this stick can change you into a frog. But if you have this bottle top and you shine it at me, I can't fly anymore, something like that. Those are the kinds of games that children like to play, and they play them absolutely incessantly. And everybody sort of intuitively knows that children playing is important. When a child is saying, let's pretend what they're really saying is, let's imagine. Imagining is the possibly the central human trick. That's what distinguishes us from all other creatures. We can imagine worlds that don't exist. We can not only imagine them, we can imagine what is going on within them. We can change details. They're exercising this great talent of

imagination. They're becoming humans actually. They're growing out of being animals, and they're becoming humans. They're learning to think about how other worlds could be. You think about this world by imagining alternatives to them. Children learn through play, but adults play through art.

Ava / Savanna

Where'd the ducky go?

Cilla Black - Alfie

What's it all about, Alfie? Is it just for the moment we live? What's it all about when you sort it out, Alfie? Are we meant to take more than we give?

James Gardner (Mrs Miller - Catch A Falling Star)

It's really a very childish situation, there's nothing remarkable about it. After all, little children will sit in a corner, a boy will, with some mud, he'll pile it up and he's building a crusader castle, and this is crusader castle to him - well, there's one in his head.

Maria and the Children - Do-Re-Mi / Mrs Miller - Catch A Falling Star

Once you have these notes in your head you can sing a million different tunes by mixing them up like this...

Rowen / Mathilde / Lila

Do, a deer, a female deer, Re, a drop of golden sun, Mi, a name, I call myself, Fa, a long, long way to run, So, a needle pulling thread La, a note to follow So, Ti, a drink with jam and bread, That will bring us back to Do, oh, oh, oh.. Do-Re-Mi, Do-Re-Mi, The first three notes just happen to be... Do-Re-Mi

The Chiffons - Nobody Knows What's Going (In My Mind But Me)

Nobody knows what's goin' on in my mind but me, Nobody knows what's goin' on in my mind but me, Nobody knows what's goin' on in my mind but me, Nobody knows what's goin' on in my mind but me

Ergo Phizmiz

The idea of invention and, and ideas as art is something different, but equally as important because I think that what art really is, is it's like a laboratory for the rest of life and the laboratory from which practicality emerges. It's the place where concepts and notions are played with, and without this playing with the world, without art and without wanton playfulness for the sake of it, art for art's sake, I don't think that civilization would exist at all.

Andrew Sharpley (Dusty Springfield - The Windmills Of Your Mind)

Vicki Bennett asked me to say something about ideas for radio programme. I've thought about this for several weeks now, but the fact is, I find it difficult to have ideas about ideas. The whole idea of having

ideas about ideas is already like being trapped in a hall of mirrors. Anyway, in a monologue like this I feel like.. I feel like.. I feel I can go and go in circles that hall of mirrors again.

Dusty Springfield - The Windmills Of Your Mind

Like the circles that you find in the windmills of your mind! Like a tunnel that you follow to a tunnel of its own, Down a hollow to a cavern where the sun has never shone, Like a door that keeps revolving in a half forgotten dream...

Ava (Abba - Thank You For The Music / Bee Gees - Idea)

What is an idea? What's an idea? Idea.

Cameron

An idea is something that comes into your head. You know when it's there because if it's like, you're just walking around, then suddenly you look at something and bing, oh, I have an idea.

Judy Garland - Follow the Yellow Brick Road - You're Off To See The Wizard

Follow the Yellow Brick Road, follow the yellow brick road, follow the yellow brick road. Follow the yellow brick road. Follow the Yellow Brick Road, follow the yellow brick road, follow the yellow brick road.

Cameron

You know that saying? Are you thinking what I'm thinking? That's when somebody has same idea.

Katja Seltmann

I had the idea. It almost seemed like immediately afterwards. I was at a meeting, somebody else was talking about a very similar idea, slightly different, but very similar to the point where I was just like, ah, bing, that person's had the same idea.

Alice In Wonderland - Tweedledum and Tweedledee

Ditto said to Tweedledum. Ditto ditto, cried Tweedledee. He shouted this so loud that Alice couldn't help but say hush you'll be waking him, I'm afraid if you make so much noise.

Katja Seltmann

Two days later, I'm in a conference or something. And I'm just like, bing, someone else has had the same idea. And I think it's because we move collectively as a group. And even if you're on the front wave of that collective group, and you're having novel ideas, which we all do, you're not going to be the only person on the front wave.

Bing Crosby & Peggy Lee - The Moon Came Up With A Great Idea Last Night

The moon came up (bing) with a great idea last night, yes, it took the moon to do it cos before I knew, the moon came up (bing) with a great idea alright.

Rick Prelinger

Novelty emerges from the combination of idea with idea, the transfer of a technique from one trade to another, the adaptation of an instrument to an alien product, a shunting of a process toward an unfamiliar objective.

Louis Armstrong - I Get Ideas

I get ideas, I get ideas.

Rick Prelinger

As ideas are fused, novelty gets endowed with degree. The microphone, the electric circuit, the vacuum tube are conscripted into a conspiracy, by which a broadcast brings the performance of a symphony to the people of a nation. Radio renders obsolete the large horn and the vibrating needle, by which music was accorded a faint and noisy immortality upon the phonograph record. Creation arises from a union of familiar things, novelty is touched off by a talent which ranges from sheer genius to a mere mechanical gift.

Louis Armstrong - I Get Ideas

I kind of think you get ideas too.

John Cage and Morton Feldman in Conversation, WBAI, NYC (1967) / (Edison Wax Cylinder - Handel / M. Rosenthal - Nocturne / Radio detuning)

You know how I adjusted to that problem of the radio in the environment. Very much as the primitive people adjusted to the animals which frightened them, and which probably you say were intrusions? They drew pictures on their caves, and so I simply made a piece using radios. Now, whenever I hear radios, even a single one, not just 12 at a time, as you must have heard on the beach, at least, I think rather just playing my piece.

David Lynch

An idea comes, and you see it, and you hear it, and you know it. How does it come? It comes like on a TV in your mind.

Music Masterpieces 1970s Album

I'm sure you recognise this lovely melody A Stranger in Paradise. But did you know that the original theme is from the Polovtsian Dance Number 2 by Borodin? So many of the melodies of well known popular songs were actually written by the great masters, like these familiar themes.

Iain Chambers

There's that theory of Rupert Sheldrake, the scientist has this theory of morphic resonance, where he basically thinks our consciousness is, we are sort of radio sets, our brains, and our consciousness exists in the ether, and we just tune into it.

Music Masterpieces 1970s Album Commercial

Yes, here are 120 of the greatest works of Strauss, Beethoven, Schubert, and many more performed by Europe's finest musicians. It's a priceless introduction to the classics, that will enrich every home. But there's a great deal more, you also get this special collection of piano masterpieces, 30 of the most beautiful melodies ever composed for the keyboard.

John Lennon talks about Because and Moonlight Sonata / (Ergo Phizmiz - Raindrop Sonata)

The next track is another song of yours, John, that's called Because and I seem to detect some sort of classic overtone in this, is this by design or, yeah, sort of, you know, a Yoko plays classical piano and she was playing one day and I don't know, Beethoven or something. I said, give me them chords backwards. I wrote Because on top of it, Moonlight Sonata, backwards, something like that.

Jeff Carey and Falco (Ergo Phizmiz - Raindrop Sonata)

Hi. Hi. How are you? Good. Good. What's an idea? Er, I don't know. Let's talk about an idea. Do you ever get ideas that are brand new that have nothing to do with anything else? Sometimes. Is it good to copy people? No. Really? Actually, yes. Really? Do you ever learn, when you copy something? Sometimes.

Falco

I just make a little bit of an idea and cut it in half, and mix it up with another idea to make a new half, I cut it from my mind and I dug it out.

Jeff Carey

It was in your mind and you dug it out.

Falco

Yep. Just dug it out from my mind. (Don't touch the microphone please).

Graham Duff

The juxtaposition of two separate shots by splicing them together resembles not so much a simple sum of one shot plus another shot, as it does a creation. Sergei Eisenstein.

David Lynch

Small fragments, small fragments.

Kenneth Goldsmith

I'm actually interested in the way that objects flow through our networks and end up

David Lynch

I like to think of it as in the other room, the puzzle is all together.

Kenneth Goldsmith

Perhaps unaware at our feet.

David Lynch

But they keep flipping in just one piece at a time.

Kenneth Goldsmith

When we least expect it. And then we have to kind of learn to accommodate that.

Katja Seltmann

It's almost like it's, you take a large puzzle, and you put all the pieces of the puzzle together.

Charlie Lewis

I think once you start playing with it, then you are interacting with it.

Jeff Carey

So you think we should keep our ideas to ourselves.

Charlie Lewis

I mean, there's hardly anything that's really truly original, everybody's just taking a little piece of this and that, that they've been influenced by and putting it together

Falco

And sometimes, we should share.

David Lynch

Small fragments, thinking about that small fragment that little fish.

Katja Seltmann

like a combination of pieces

David Lynch

Will bring in more.

Falco

We should share ideas and give somebody the other half of your idea and keep the other half.

Jeff Carey and Falco

What would you do if you each had your own half of an idea? You could have the wrong one. And you could give it back (small) and you (fragments) give the wrong half back to the person who had the right half and the other person could give that wrong half back to the person who that as that right half.

David Lynch

Desiring an idea is like a bait on a hook.

Jeff Carey

Okay. If you each had half of an idea, could you make a new idea from that?

Falco

Uh huh. If it's old, and new half would be another idea.

Neil Diamond - The Windmills Of Your Mind / Michel LeGrand - The Windmills Of Your Mind / Eva Mendes - The Windmills Of Your Mind / Richard Hayman - The Windmills Of Your Mind

Round like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel, neverending or beginning, on an endless spinning reel, like a snowball down a mountain, or a carnival balloon, like a carousel that's turning running rings around the moon.

Henry Lowengard (*The Beatles - Because / The Swingle Singers - Moonlight Sonata*)

The metaphor of dwarves standing on the shoulders of giants expresses the meaning of discovering truths by building on previous discoveries. Its most familiar expression in English is found in a 1676 letter of Isaac Newton. If I've seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.

Rick Prelinger (*Beethoven - Piano Sonata No.14 Moonlight, I.Adagio Sostenuto / The Beatles – Because*)

The human mind of course, cannot create something out of nothing and ideas never entered the most facile heads out of the ethereal blue. The mind can work only with the stuff that has on hand or can pick up (*Because..*). As it is stored with notions images, memories, it can bring familiar things together into new patterns. Millions of us possess such an ordinary gift. However rare genius or even talent may be the advance of useful knowledge demands no more than turning favourable conditions to account.

Brian Eno

So how does it come about? How do ideas come about? Where does art come from? Is it just out of thin air as libertarians and laissez-fairists tend to think, romantics as well. They imagined that people like Beethoven walk around with symphonies in their head and...

Tim Maloney

Picasso did not rise from his bed each day, amble off to the local Starbucks, throw open his laptop, and simply by the act of staring at the screen, produce marvels

Paul Chan - Society of The Spectacle

Truth is not like some finished product in which one can no longer find any trace of the tool that made it.

Brian Eno

I came up with this word then, which is the word Scenius. So genius is the talent of an individual. Scenius is the talent of a whole community. And you get something that is actually an ecosystem. It's not a hierarchy.

Guy Debord

Ideas improve, the meaning of words plays a role in that improvement.

Joni Mitchell

Is it realistic Joni, for a contemporary music artist to not be a copycat of some sort? Well, tradition is a copycat, and most people love tradition. I'm not saying that's what sells.

Sophie Tucker - Oh, You Have No Idea

Ohhhhh.. you have no idea.

Cameron

If somebody was like, Hey, that's my idea. They mean by that, I can't believe you had the same idea as me.

Joni Mitchell

99.9% of the musicians sat in their room, pick the hero and emulated it and tried to cop that sound or that...

The Prisoner - Dry Bones

Meeee bones, your ankle bone connected to your leg bone, your leg bone connected to your thigh bone, your thigh bone connected to your hip bone...

George Jones - We Must Have Been Out Of Our Minds

Oh we must have been out of our minds...

Iain Chambers

Part of it is making yourself open to ideas so that when they do emerge, your mind is fertile, ready to be sort of almost pollinated by these ideas that come through, but

Akashamitra

it's impossible for it to just stay static. If it doesn't move, if it doesn't develop if it doesn't become something else.

Iain Chambers (*Johnny Hartman - The Very Thought Of You*)

But in the detail, you might have to actually jettison what it was that got you started.

Akashamitra

But they need to have been what they were in order to become what they eventually develop into just like a flower needs to seed in order to grow.

Tim Maloney (*The Wizard Of Oz - If I Only Had A Brain*)

Many creative people develop their strategies early in life, they may not be as aware of exactly what they're doing when they create. The most often described sensation is that of a trance, of time losing meaning, and of an intense focus on the materials at hand. Artists talk as if they had no idea what could result when suddenly (bing) the idea appeared.

Marcel Duchamp

To all appearances, the artist acts like a mediumistic being who, from the labyrinth, beyond time and space seeks his way out to a clearing.

Dorian Jones and Lenny

I've got a question for you. Do you know what an idea is? What? What? Where do you get it from? Your brain? What does your brain get it from? The sky.

Jesse Boon

I think ideas are like it's something that just pops up in your head and you think about it. I just believe that do come from your spirit. I think it comes from your spirit thoughts.

Tim Maloney (*2001 - The Deactivation of Hal 9000*)

What you would like to do is to relax the other parts of your brain, especially the parts known for an impetuous nature and give them free rein. The rigid pattern forming parts of the brain can come in later to shape this material.

John Cage - Lecture On Nothing (2001 - The Deactivation of Hal 9000 / Simon & Garfunkel - The Sound Of Silence)

More and more, I have the feeling that we are getting nowhere.

HAL - 2001 A Space Odyssey

I honestly think you want to sit down calmly. Take a stress pill and think things over

John Cage - Lecture On Nothing (2001 - The Deactivation of Hal 9000 / Simon & Garfunkel - The Sound Of Silence)

Slowly, as the talk goes on. Stop. We are getting nowhere. And that is a pleasure. Stop, will you. It is not irritating. To be where one is, will you stop? It is only irritating, to take one we'd like to be somewhere else (silences). My mind is going.

Saraka, Suddhaka and Sunayaka recite The Heart Sutra

Here then, Form is no other than emptiness, Emptiness no other than form. Form is only emptiness, Emptiness only form. Feeling, thought, and choice, Consciousness itself, Are the same as this. All things are by nature void They are not born or destroyed Nor are they stained or pure Nor do they wax or wane So, in emptiness, no form, No feeling, thought, or choice, Nor is there consciousness. No eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, mind; No colour, sound, smell, taste, touch, Or what the mind takes hold of, Nor even act of sensing. No ignorance or end of it, Nor all that comes of ignorance; No withering, no death, No end of them.

John Cage - Lecture On Nothing (2001 - The Deactivation of Hal 9000 / Bee Gees - Stayin' Alive)

Originally we were nowhere. And now again, we are having the pleasure of being slowly nowhere. If anybody is sleeping, let him go to sleep.

2001 - The Deactivation of Hal 9000 / Bee Gees - Stayin' Alive

My mind is going. I can feel it. My mind is going. We're going nowhere, somebody help me.

The Three Stooges - What's The Idea?

What's the idea? You're trying to ruin my business? What's the idea? What's the idea? What's the idea of pulling me off the horse?

David Lynch (Bee Gees - Stayin' Alive)

The idea is more than you realise. And if you're true to it, when the work is finished, and some years go by, you can even get more out of it. If you've been true to the idea in the first place.

Tim Maloney (The Left Banke - I've Got Something On My Mind)

Ideas are a dime a dozen. That's what they say. And it's true. An idea is worth nothing on its own. So throw your ideas out. You'll make new ones.