

## **INFLUENCES**

Art is a cultural activity that was introduced to and developed in me by others. Teachers, parents, TV, magazines, and other artists have all played their part in making me what I am. And we learn from those who went before and are working around us as we find and develop our own voice.

Sometimes artist opens doors for others to walk through. For me the challenge is to be influenced by other artists, to pay homage to them, and yet remain true to myself. I am interested in all kinds of art, craft and design; and indeed, am interested in the other arts. I write a little, and love and have a good knowledge of popular music. Although I am primarily a fine artist, I regard myself as being a polymath, because to be open to a variety of media and disciplines allows me greater opportunities for exploration and self-expression. If that makes me a jack of all trades in the pejorative sense, then I'm happy to pay that price.

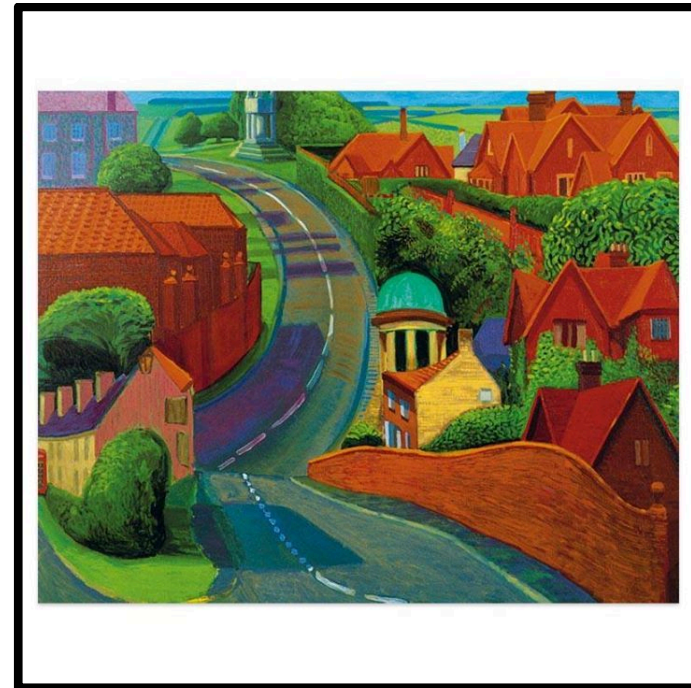
I am interested in any kind of artefact, whether that is great art, magazine photographs, local art club work, Stone Age flint tools, machinery, and wedding cakes. But having a Western painting background, however, my main focus is inevitably perhaps, upon the work of other picture-makers, especially Western painters. The following is a compilation of artists who have been important for me over the years. In addition to reproductions of their work I've included a line or two describing something about the artist that has been of special significance to me:

This artist worked fearlessly across disciplines and what they call 'styles'.



Man Ray

**David Hockney revived figurative art when abstraction was the orthodoxy.** Also, he introduced me to iPad art...

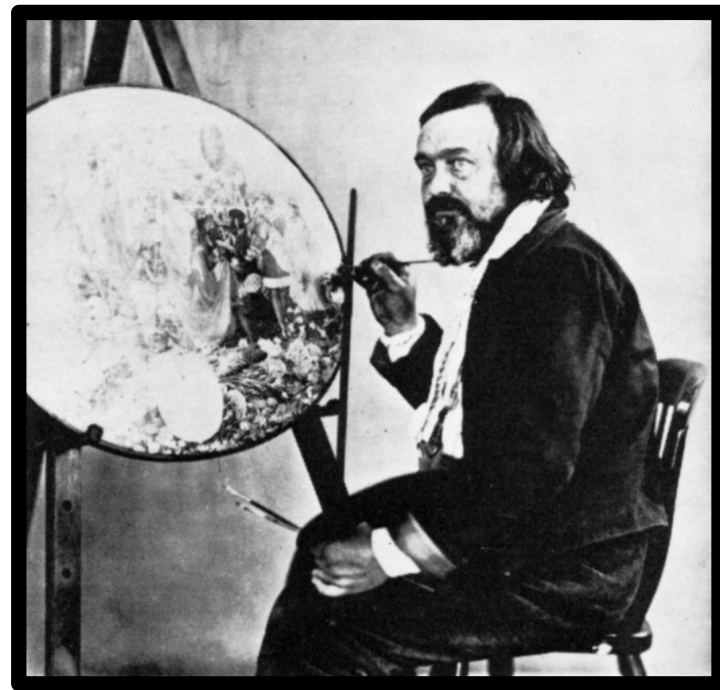




I was influenced by William Blake's working in series on paper, his truly visionary work across art and literature, and his combining of image and text. I admire Blake's defiant, uncompromising and revolutionary spirit.

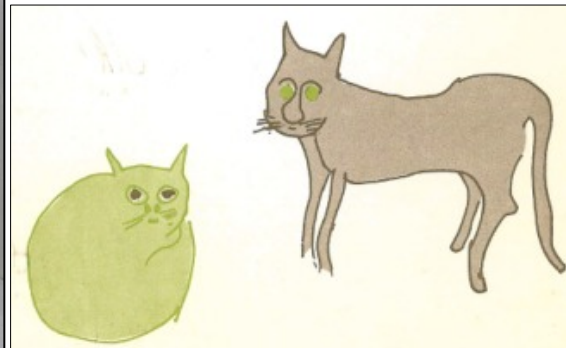
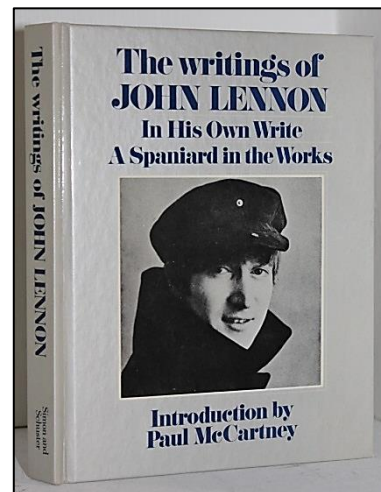


**Richard Dadd**, a paranoid schizophrenic, shows that a painter does not have to be prolific, making tons of dosh, and does not have to throw paint around to be good. Nor does the artist have to be in the pocket of an art dealer, be a debonair character and be part of a social scene. What is obvious, and what counts above everything, is the quality of the painter's vision as seen in the work, whatever the circumstances of its making.



# Five Polymaths of the Arts

Ivor Cutler, John Lennon, Spike Milligan, Syd Barrett, Don van Vliet (Captain Beefheart): I like these artists because they are arts polymaths, making work across music, art, comedy and poetry. You get the fuller person when an artist works like this. They emboldened me into becoming a bit of a polymath too.



## 1. John Lennon: musician; writer; artist

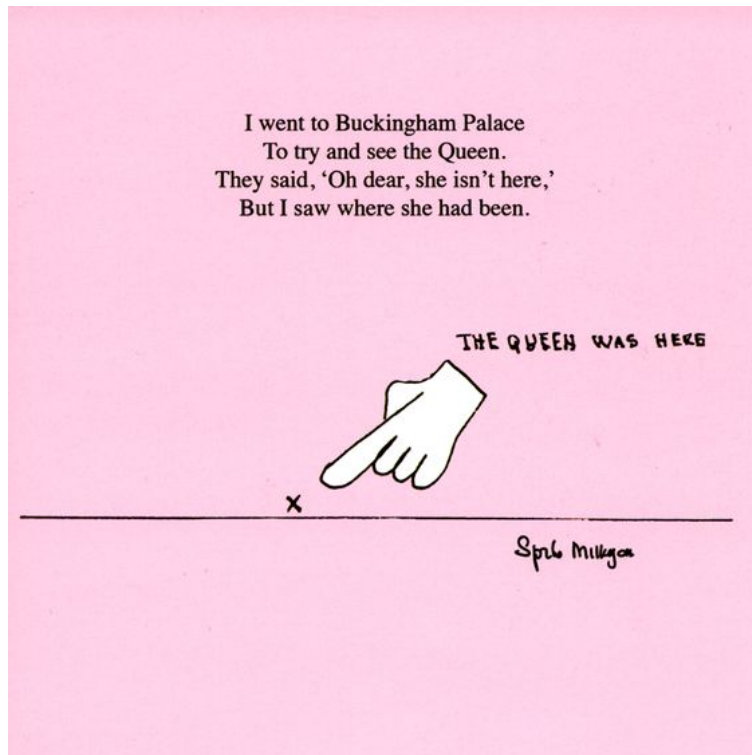


Manta Ray A Black and white  
hand groped in blue light  
under the Moon Scratched  
A Fingernail  
tipped off Full ran to one side  
of HEAVENS Black top hat  
God smiled, his Black and white wings  
wet with TEARS OF PEACE PERFUMED  
with life PERFECTION.

Don Van Hiet



## 2. Don Van Vleit was a songwriter; musician; poet; and artist



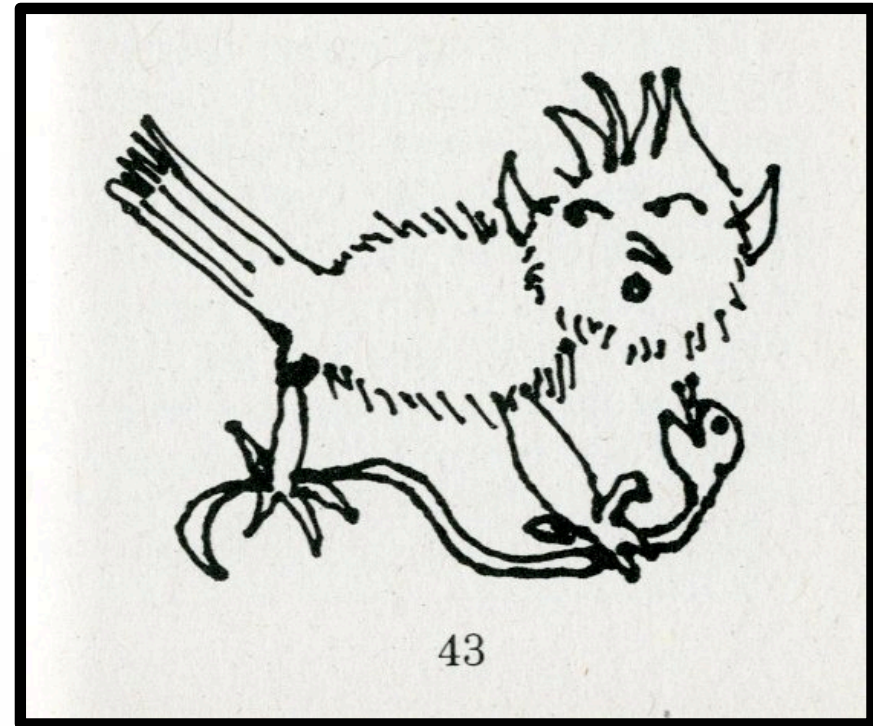
### 3. Spike Milligan: comic; writer; musician; artist



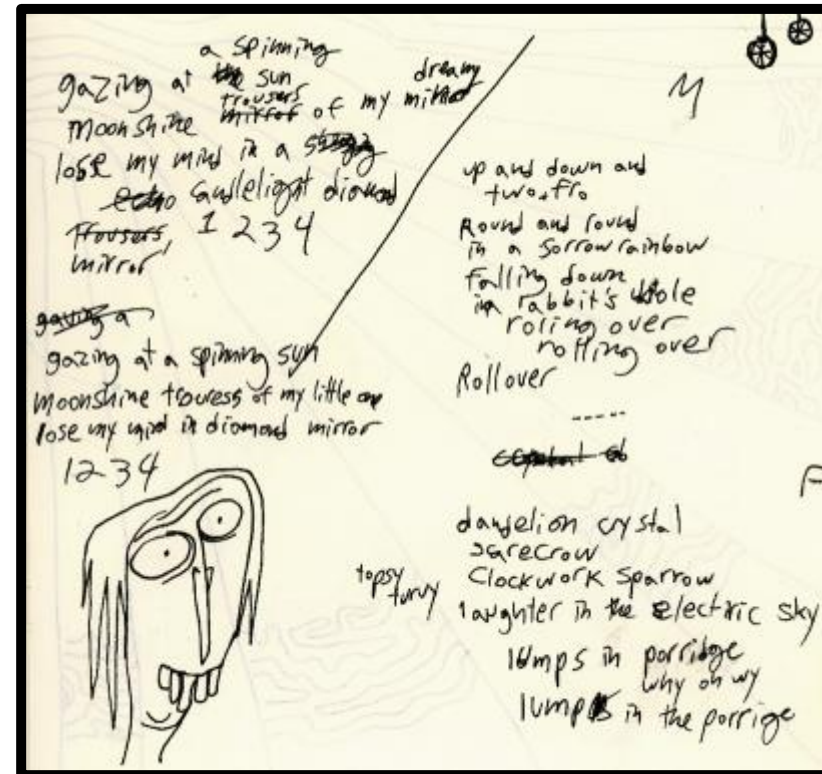
### A LONG FINE

It is arrogant of roses to have  
thorns, as I care neither for their  
appearance nor their smell. You  
don't see a thorn on a harebell,  
yet it gets along fine, and  
inspires respect as well as  
deep affection for its  
strength and subtlety.

Ivor Cutler © 1994



**4. Ivor Cutler was an artist, progressive teacher, musician and poet**



5. Syd Barrett was a songwriter, musician and artist

The pictures of Alan Davie work as collages of imagery. They are based on sources such as ancient petroglyphs and religious art. They gave me a lead into my first oil paintings.





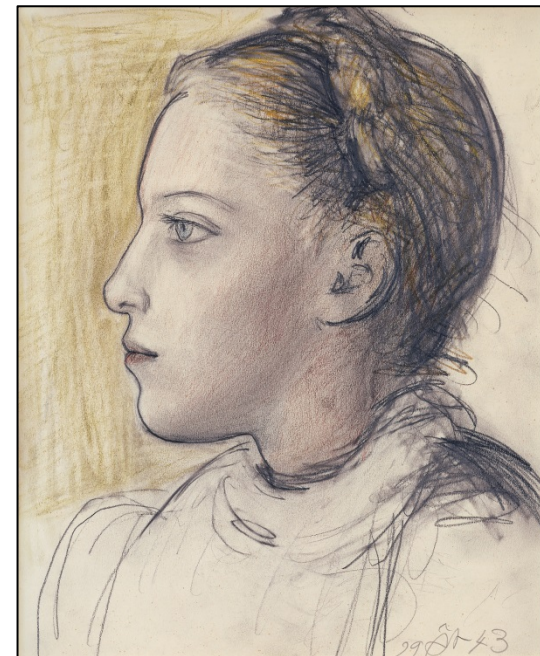
**Jean Dubuffet** shows us the clairvoyance that can be achieved through drawing stupidly. And he told us that the qualities of the materials are more important than colour.





**I have the highest admiration for Pablo Picasso because he is the one who broke Western art wide open...**

**Pablo Picasso (October 25, 1881 to April 8, 1973)**



# Marcel Duchamp



**This artist brought us a completely new way of considering the art object. Because of this I regard him as being equal to, if not actually greater than Picasso.**

# L.S. Lowry



**L.S. Lowry proved to me that it is possible to be a successful part-time artist. I too draw upon my surroundings and day-to-day life, and use them in my own work.**



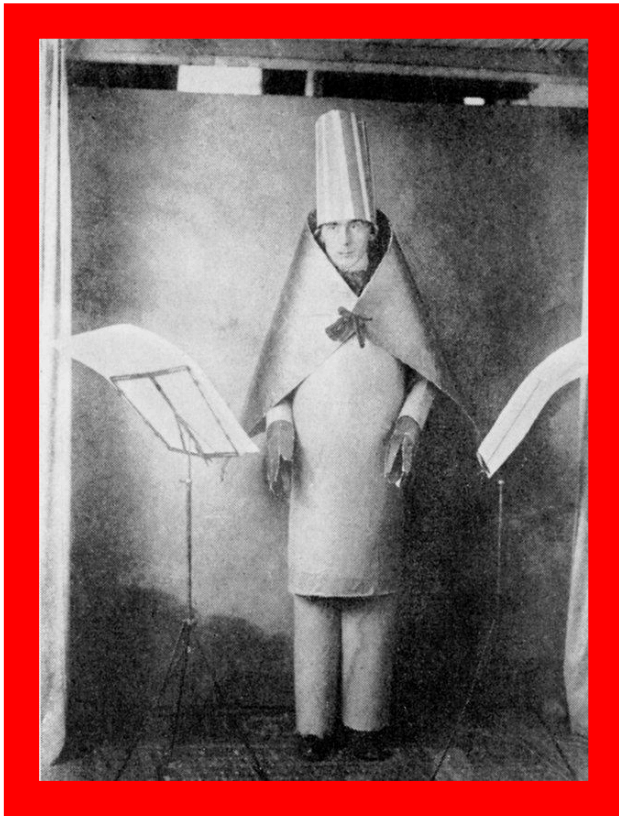
# Cave Art



**The diversity of cave art across place and time interests me; as does its spontaneous and often exploratory nature. It has had a positive impact upon my amalgams.**



**Dada is fine by me in its questioning of society and culture.**



Frida Khalo encourages me to work in the same introspective and autobiographical vein as her.





# Chardin



**I see the suchness of things in Chardin's exquisitely observed still life paintings.**

There are times when I cannot distinguish between the paint handling in the paintings of **Rembrandt** and the flesh he is depicting. It so shocked me when I saw this in the painting of his mother (Below right) that it took me some time to recover.





**Vermeer** brings us in paintings like these, what must in essence be among the world's first photographs...



Max Ernst brought me the hallucinatory potential of the materials and the flash that comes when disparate elements are cleverly combined.





In Paul Klee we see the intellectual intermingled with the childlike.



The motifs in the art of Eileen Cooper are instantly identifiable. The variations of media, approach, colour and composition in her expression of them is impressive. I am attracted by the idea of creating a self-contained world for myself also, but I have found that for me this is not a natural way of working. Instead I can live in those of artists such as this.

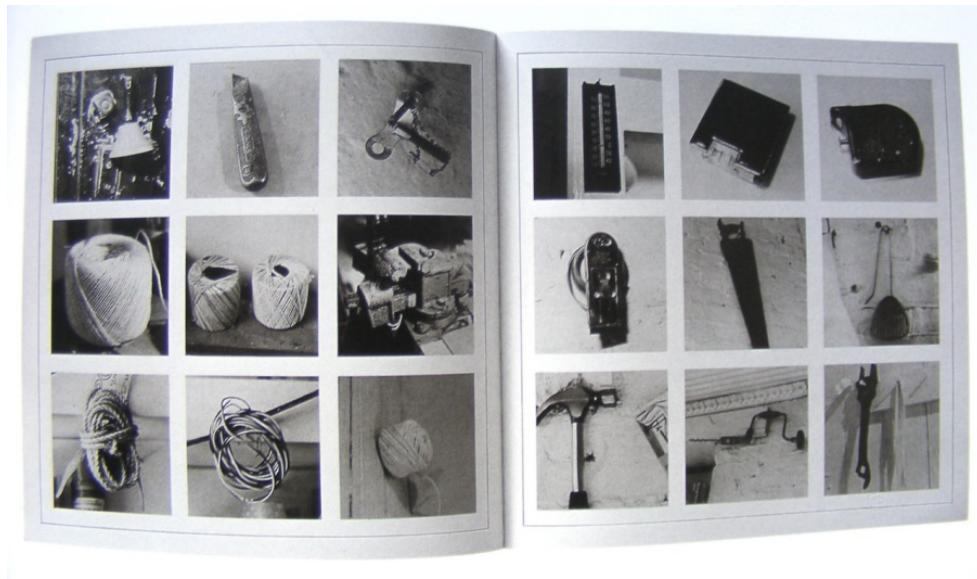




I had the honour of being shown a selection of her powerful artwork by **Shelly Wyn-de-Bank**. The one on the right is now a part of my art collection...



The assertion of Hans-Peter Feldman that art is a problem-solving tool falls in line with my use of creative activities to plan, track, record and pin things down.



For me the significance of Yoko Ono is that her work is definitely inside life.



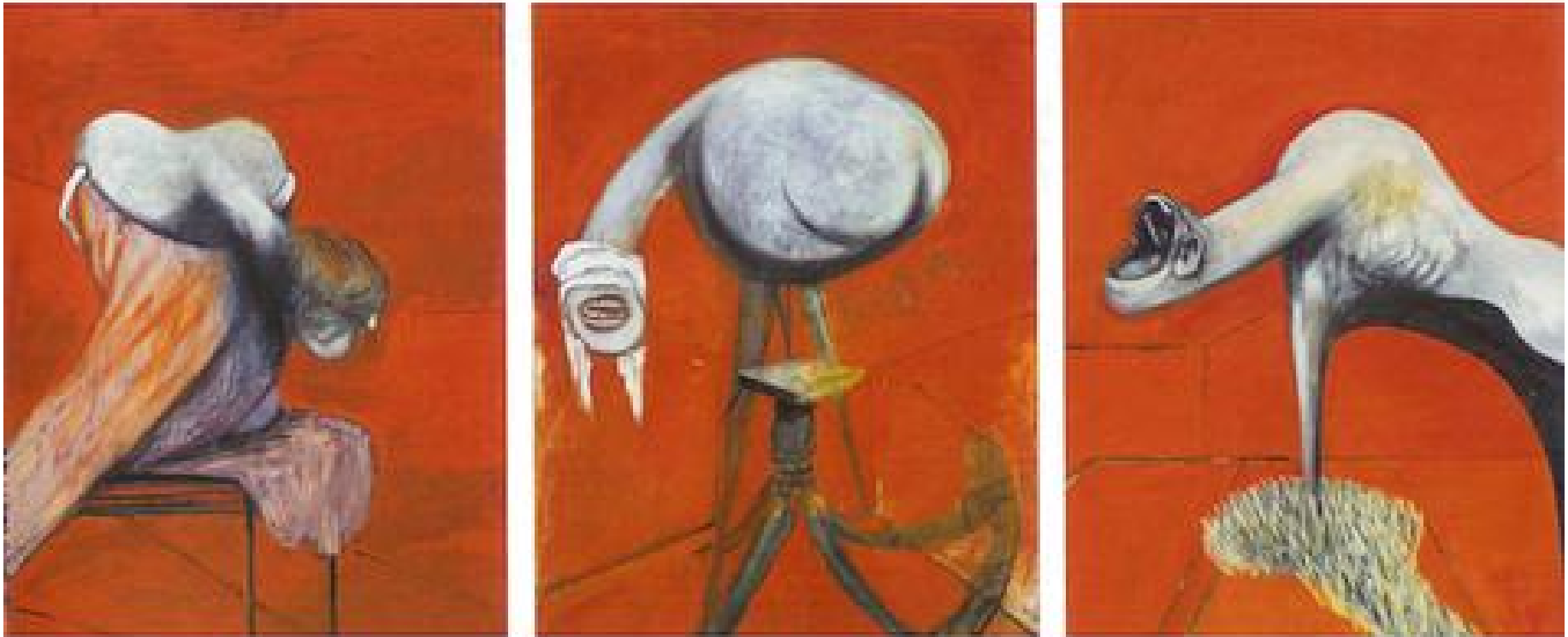
EARTH PIECE

Listen to the sound of the earth turning.

1963 spring



# Francis Bacon



I have read the transcriptions of Francis Bacon's interviews many times and have found them endlessly fascinating. His subject matter, compositions and use of paint are very well-integrated and a good reflection of his attitudes towards both art and life.

**Meredith Frampton** is clear proof that oil painting is about the artist's vision whatever that may be. It is strange to me that artists almost have to apologise these days for painting like this.

