

# A BEAUTIFUL KIND OF DANGEROUS

TRACIE ROGERS

Artists in academia create differently.  
We are sensitive souls seeing the world in  
prose and hues  
Our epistemology is embodied.  
Our ways of sensing the world, knotted in  
muscle and emotion.  
We fumble through transcripts with our eyes  
closed.  
With data soaked pores, we sift and stumble  
through  
Both lived and unlived,  
Spoken and unspoken,  
Channelling the imagined and the  
unimaginable.

Artists who are academics have always  
known their truths.  
We walk into the belly of the beast with  
reluctance,  
Knowing there is work to be done  
But we also know that we are not of this  
world.  
Between and betwixt, we work in secret.  
Our research is inside-out work, translated  
into the jargon of outside-in labour.  
Fitting in,  
Sometimes.  
But we know the truth,  
Always.  
Our work is emotional, messy, intense, soul  
churning labour.  
Reeling from the sting of disjointedness we  
trod,

Still.  
Pretending not to feel out of place,  
Often.  
Weighed down by a grief we cannot wrap with  
words,  
Interrupted only by moments stolen to laugh  
scandalously at this theatre of the absurd,  
And revel.  
Sometimes we revel, in the joy of our secret  
identity.  
Happy to not be of the beast as we walk the  
halls.  
But ...if we stay long enough,  
In the depths of the sweet stench of our  
knowing,  
We make peace with who we have always  
known ourselves to be.

Artists in academia are sensitive souls.  
Stepping into the wholeness of the truth of  
who we are,  
We come to understand that while this  
bureaucracy cuts like a thousand blades,  
Our creativity mends every wound.  
And the magic of that knowing makes us a  
beautiful kind of dangerous.  
Appraisals still matter,  
But we will not bare ourselves for the  
approval of a world that cannot fathom our  
sensitivity, nor grasp our beauty.

Along these hallowed halls, I met Wendy's  
beautiful kind of dangerous.



Acrylics on canvas 16X20 inches  
Original Artwork

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