

Interview of the Common Folk: Andy Seidl

Envelop yourself in the world of a man tumbled over the mind of himself, where the self shatters and reforms of its own will and the soul wants to be free but is constrained by the history of man, of how we came to be in such a way, of why and why not, of how come and a forever battering question of why don't we ask questions, challenge all thought patterns until we understand things truly for ourselves?

You would say that Andy trips over his own words contradicting and coming back around, flipping out and running thoughts back into one another in a donut race course of accelerating and condensing racers, but the point is not to go forward, but to continue in the circle, the quicken the pace, to cut tighter with each circuit until all have crashed into destroyed exploded or opened what was at the center of all of it, whether emptiness of the truth of emptiness, whether time space or lack of all, whether a doorway to another dimension or insanity split in half and fed into a microwave, the play of words and the play of language is only to reach the middle ground or simply pass the time.

Enter the space where facts are useless, and words are tools that equally assist and deter excavation of the mind. What matters is not being correct but being able to move forward, not with cohesion but with certainty of uncertainty, with will for adventure, to read between the lines, to say without saying, to instruct by destructing, to understand that our concept of face value is inefficient and irrelevant. This is the escalation of language turned in on itself. Forget yourself, forget your mother, forget your lover and your brother, come along to the opposite ends of the earth and do whatever you like...

T: Give me your age and name and all that shit...

A: Andy. Scratch that, Robbie cutthroat. Scratch that Rusty cut throat—age 23.9 and, you know, currently moving through time. I've been living in Portland, and I'm gonna move again, and move again and then move again.

T: Why do you say that?

A: Because you know, we're transient beings, and we move, we tend to move.

T: We?!

A: We tend to move around a lot, except for some people who never move...and they're interesting too.

T: Tell me about your trip to...wherever...

A: Well this one time we went to Belize, I think it was in 2003, it's this small island, it's this crazy place. First of all we flew into Belize City, and it's all this big compound that was built by the British and it's all like, this low stoned walled place and all you can ever see really is this low stone walls. And each area you go to is all divided up into I don't know...different areas. I can't really explain it except for saying it's smaller areas in larger areas...it's kind of like tetris. And then you get out and you're driving or whatever and then all of a sudden you're in deep jungle, there's monkey's everywhere. And after that it's the Ocean!

Then we get onto this seaplane and we fly out to another Island, this is like a cascading series of islands—Anyway, Belize is like, their whole thing is like, you can just smoke weed and dive...

T: Did you have some encounters with monkeys there or was that somewhere else?

A: I had an encounter with...well, we were staying in this that was under construction, so it wasn't currently not a building yet it was going to be one, but it wasn't really a building enough to keep out the elements, and the elements are like monkeys or whatever, so one day we were just sitting on the veranda, which was more like half a veranda, and this monkey just JUMPED in through the window, but it wasn't really a window yet just a space for a window which is why the monkey could come through because it wasn't finished yet, so this monkey comes slamming through and grabbed our chicken and went running off, and we couldn't do anything because he was a monkey and just jumped into the trees.

T: And that leads into the biggest unaddressed problem which are monkeys...

A: Oh yeah well...the problem with monkeys—totally...it's not really a problem it's more like a solution in some ways. It depends on which way you look at it.

T: Monkeys?

A: Yeah I mean monkeys can be a solution.

T: To what?

A: You saw that one time where like they have some monkeys who scare off other monkeys? They have attack monkeys, you've heard of this. It depends where you're at, right? Because some places it's a good thing to have monkeys.

T: Where's that?

A: Like in Varanasi the oldest city in the world, they have this Hanuman, the temple of the Hanuman. Hanuman is this half god, half monkey, half man, so three halves, it doesn't really make sense, but anyway, Hanuman is this dude, and he is a monkey, and they decided that having monkeys was a positive thing as opposed to this threat, and there's thousands of monkeys there and you're not supposed to run away from them, because they don't attack anymore, they get what they want, and they just come around and hang on your shoulder and walk over your leg. It's a good thing. It's all about perspective...with monkeys at least...

T: You had some other experiences with monkeys in Nepal right?

A: Which one?

T: That one with the old—

A: Oh the steam bath!

T: What were your intentions before the trip, tell me exactly why you went.

A: The reason I wanted to go back to Nepal was that I is a completely different world...?

T: Did you say I is a completely different world?

A: Yes! I is a completely different world depending on where I is. After I graduated two years ago, I was thinking, well what are we going to do, what am I going to do, what is my world gonna be like after school, you know because you do X world for so many years and you figure out here are the limitations of this world, the sort of mold I've cast for myself, sort of anti...you set up your own limitations of what you think you're able to do in wherever you are, and you get to this point where you come through all that and you think, is this really how I want to spend my time? The world is a pretty big place, people should focus on transcending your limits. I think that you don't really know yourself until you're challenged in a degree of ways, and I don't think—it's very easy to find yourself challenged culturally or challenged mentally, if you're constantly being reinforced or bombarded with the same imagery from a new place, or maybe the world you find yourself in is sort of like the antitheses or the mold or the place where the mold that you fit for yourself sort of fits in, then it all makes sense. Once you start changing things like languages and scenery and routine all of a sudden the thing you thought yourself to be doesn't really make sense anymore and you have to figure out what was real about who I thought I was, and what was just sort of me just making amends to—being a problem, or the solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

T: So back to your trip.

A: Yeah. We started by waking up at 5:30 am and doing 5 hours of farmwork for every single day. That really just changes the way that you interact with the world and with people because it slows time down.