

Exciting things happening in my studio...

I had an assistant  
an intern working for me  
His name was Andy  
And he was a lot of help  
And I don't know  
It kind of made me come into my own  
As a boss instead of artist  
my role was sort of different  
Because I was overseeing an operation  
Not just myself (the way it used to be)  
During that time the main project that we  
worked on together was  
Making my studio into a space for dance  
But a specific kind of dance

It just looked so amazing  
It was dark  
there were a lot of people  
you didn't really need to know anyone  
But you were all dancing  
The music was really loud  
(maybe the experience is different if you go  
with friends)  
I was imagining going by myself  
This is going to date me right now  
But I've never been to a club  
So I don't really know what it's like  
I just have the idea  
Which led me to my next project  
I decided to make an apparatus  
One thing that I learned from the videos  
was  
Clubs have a lot going on  
There might be disco balls  
Or glitter coming down from the sky  
Or special dancers up in different areas  
that aren't the general area

I realized I needed some kind of feature  
And when this new machine was on  
with the spotlight shining  
the shadow that it would make on the big  
blank wall behind it  
Had motion  
So Andy was helping me with that  
when the fan turned on the pieces of  
tissue paper would rise up  
because of the wind under them  
Making it also kind of look like the fan was  
wearing a wig  
So it was like a person  
a really big person  
And then Andy brought me a light  
And I would turn all the lights off in my  
studio except for this one light  
The spotlight  
I looked into other things  
Music I should listen to  
Outfits I might wear  
Everyday when I felt like I had the energy  
It was more that I had the energy and I  
needed to expel it  
I would close the door to my studio  
Turn on the spotlight  
Turn off the regular lights  
Put on my headphones  
And dance as hard as I could for a few  
songs  
With the wig blowing in the wind  
It became a part of my daily studio life  
A ritual

#### Addendum:

I feel crazy! I found out the ritual that I had going on in my studio (my club, and invention, the dancing, and all of the feelings that went with it), my work was being exploited. I was being played.

Andy was not who I thought he was at all. It turned out he owned a spotlight company. A company that manufactured lights that were designed specially for the particular challenges of being a spotlight. Andy was using me and my work as content for a commercial. My whole project that he was helping me with was completely turned on its head. Really, the spotlight company had decided they wanted to attract a new demographic of consumers, the artists. I seemed pretty gullible. I had never had an assistant before and it was obvious I was desperate to be someone's boss. So Andy laid the trap. He would report to work acting way too eager and helpful for what I was paying him. One thing I loved that he would do was take notes and photos throughout the day which at the time he told me were for me to refer back to, so I would never forget an idea when in actuality those weren't for me. They were important research for his commercial.

Andy stopped returning my emails and I knew something must be up. He used to reply so quickly. Then a few weeks later, I saw it. An advertisement with someone playing me "The artist". "The artist" was describing a project they were working on, a wig-fan-dancing-companion. And then the artist said, "It would not have been possible to make this important work without having this state of the art spotlight," and the commercial ended.

I was sweating now. I left the room and walked outside and down to the river. The sun was setting. I skipped some rocks. One bounced three times. I named the last rock I skipped Andy. He skipped across the water and then I never saw him again.



**Daily Studio Life**  
by Victoria Wayland