

Another Voice

Art World too Posh Shock!

By Bob and Roberta Smith

There are far too many upper-class idiots involved in the Art World. Too many Artists who speak like Prince Charles. You have to remember if you are posh but stupid you used to have to be a priest. These days art schools are the refuge of the moneyed dyslexic. My sister went to a posh school. She was an only child for eight years and my mum and dad worked hard to send her to the Lycée Français. She loved it there. It is an amazing school. The teachers used to tell the kids: "You are the top one per cent of the population". She did very well.

By the time I came along, two kids later, my mum and dad were broke and I went to an enormous comprehensive in Wandsworth where there were stabbings. The teachers used to say if you work really hard, if you are lucky, you might get a job. It didn't bother me. I have never wanted a proper job. The problem with the big

public schools is not that they offer opportunities to the well off but that they give them unbelievable self-confidence out of all proportion to their ability. This is why we have Boris Johnson as Mayor. He believes he is capable of running London but it is clear, as he sacks one advisor after another, that really he hasn't got a clue. Why would he? He has no idea about the aspirations of Londoners because in the normal run of his life, up until now, he has never worked with us. Boris should have gone to art school. He could be making casts of his body by now. His Eton chums could be selling them to other Eton chums for loads of money. Other chums in the media could be 'bigging up' his work in magazines and calling the whole process 'culture'. A few months ago I went to a party, our host asked me how the fourth plinth was going? I said that now Boris was the Mayor it was over for me. "Anthony Gormley will get the commission because Boris and Jay Joplin, who represents Gormley went to Eton". Actually Gormley went to Ampleforth but in the mind of a 'chip on his shoulder' comprehensive school kid it's the same thing. I said, "It's the return of the 'politics of deference'". When David Cameron gets elected it will be like the 1950's. "You've never had it so good". Every one who gets to climb on Gormley's plinth will be doffing their cap, tugging their forlock and saying "Thanks for showing me the zietgiest my lord".

Later I was informed the host of the party was an Eton school boy. I felt bad for being a jerk but bloody hell Eton is everywhere. Ahh they are like the Daleks but they speak like Prince Charles.

Bob and Roberta Smith is a British artist famous for his slogan artworks. A sculpture he proposed was recently shortlisted for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London.



Illustration by Anna Trench