

Rupert Loydell

It is this personalized moment, this perhaps selfish kind of evocation, I am drawn to; it is only the author's clear sense of involvement and location within the poem that in the end draws me to poems. I believe that the most personal and intimate poetry is the poetry that can say the most: by focusing we actually allow the small-scale, the precious, to expand out into a shared readership.

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I see the quote you have chosen is perhaps another "me", from an old interview, one I do not totally recognize. These days I would turn it round and say that a poet is in her work however it is composed or constructed, but I do not want ego, experience and epiphany as the focus of any text. Nothing must or has to be said about poetry, it is its elusive and often obscure nature that allows poetry to say almost anything in (m)any different ways. The fact that it often makes nothing happen is poetry's strength, as is the possibility that it might or sometimes does make something happen. Maybe this is what I meant by small-scale and a poem's relationship with readers? I am interested in the struggle I have to compose and locate myself in my own poems, because they are assembled from the world around me: conversations, quotations, discarded and ephemeral language. I am a kind of sieve, and my poems are part of the filtration process I use to survive. It sounds far grander than my writing process and experience of poetry. Writing is not barbaric, it is all we have.