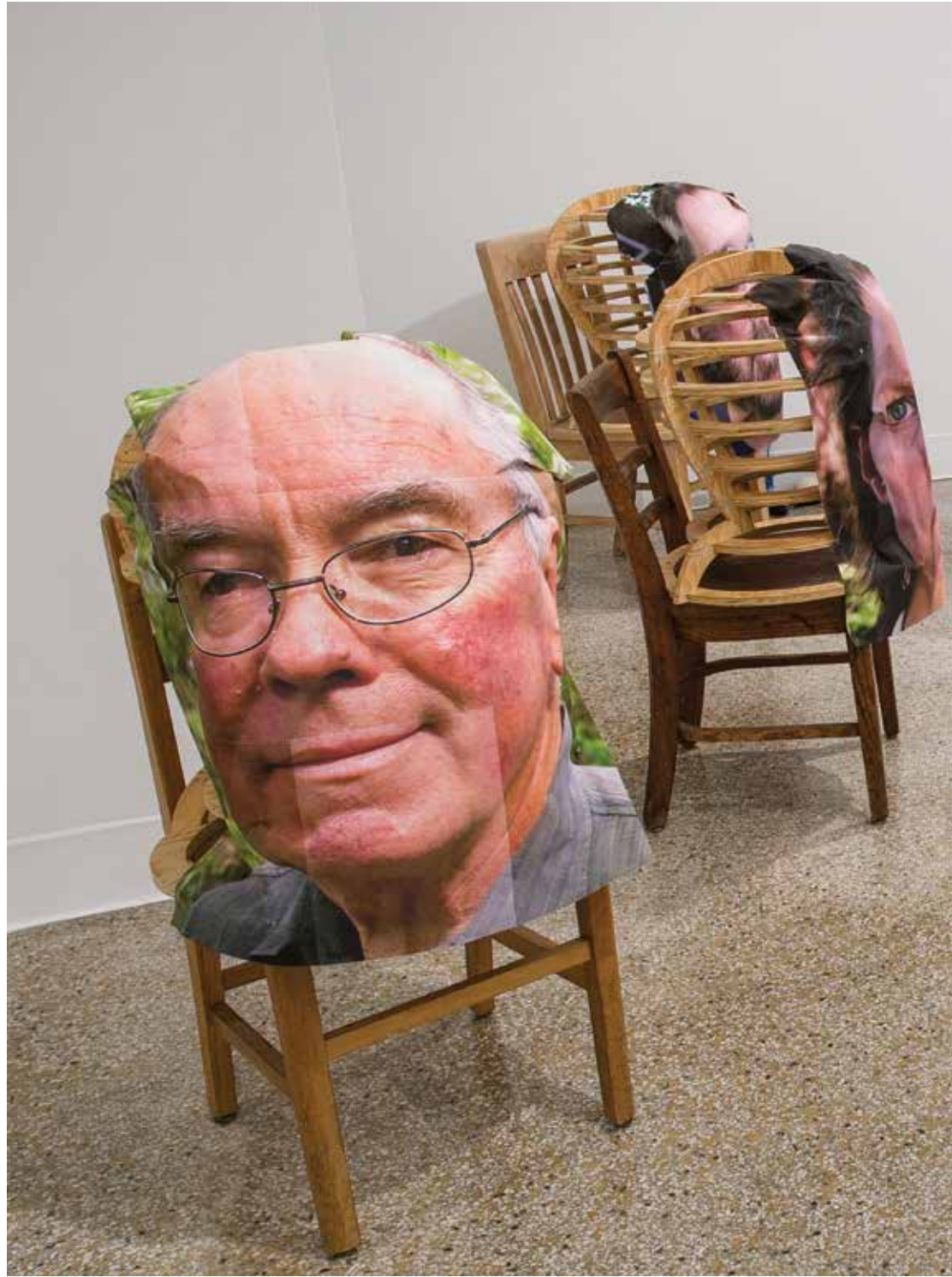




*Doorway*, 2011







*The Feel of the Thing, Not the Think of It, 2008*





## AUDIO

# the feel of the thing, not the think of it

Quotes collected by Myron Helfgott

- Lo** A piece of art shouldn't wear its craft like fine clothing.  
Martin Puryear
- G** ...what makes a narrative good is not the story itself but what follows what. Joseph Brodsky
- G** We become poets not because we have important things we want to say, but because we like hanging around words listening to what they have to say. W. H. Auden
- G** A reader will not be surprised by what he reads if the writer is not surprised by what he writes. Italo Calvino, *If On A Winter's Night A Traveler*
- J** The essential fault with Surrealism is that it invents without discovering. Wallace Stevens
- J** Art involves vastly more than the sense of beauty. Wallace Stevens
- L** He changes directions all the time because he is afraid he will lose the right one. Federico Fellini, *8½*
- L** I really have nothing to say but I'm going to say it all the same.  
Federico Fellini, *8½*
- G** Reading literature is like going crazy with a round trip ticket.  
Leslie Fiedler
- M** When asked if his films have a beginning, middle and end, Jean Luc Godard said: Yes, but not necessarily in that order.
- M** Today it goes without saying that nothing concerning art goes without saying, much less without thinking. Theodor Adorno
- M** All my friends are evil bastards except you. David Shrigley
- M** He had delusions of adequacy. Walter Kerr
- S** I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here.  
Stephen Bishop
- S** I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it.  
Groucho Marx
- Lo** The pendulum swings between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong. Carl Gustav Jung
- L** You're only looking for what you expect to find. Jessica Fletcher
- D** Language itself is capable of transforming reality. Mario Vargas-Llosa
- Lo** What can be shown cannot be said. Ludwig Wittgenstien
- S** Happiness is the ability of telling everyone the truth without hurting anybody. Federico Fellini, *8½*
- Lo** All humans require moorings in order to make sense of things; the contemporary arts undercut our moorings." Claude Levi-Strauss
- G** A writer doesn't look for the answers in life, he looks for the mysteries.  
Ken Kesey
- J** I know a lot about art but I don't know what I like. James Thurber

- Lo** Isn't the disproportion between the plain object and the fancy explanation the oldest joke there is about modern art. Adam Gopnik
- M** I know a place in the fields of... (pause) this is a bunch of shit you know. Orson Wells
- S** The idea is that poetry is produced and airplanes are beautiful. Clement Greenberg
- G** The function of art is to make a raid on predictability. Oscar Wilde
- Lo** Art doesn't reproduce the visible, it renders visible. Paul Klee
- M** I am searching but have not yet found. Federico Fellini, 8½
- D** Beauty is valued less than psychology. Joseph Brodsky
- S** I came to believe long ago not to make a meal of one's emotional life. Joseph Brodsky
- M** It's all art, but not necessarily good art. Marcel Duchamp
- L** Art is a guaranty of sanity. Louise Bourgeois
- G** Social intent in literature has been replaced by social opportunity. Vladimir Nabokov
- Lo** The only sensible way to regard the art life is that it is a privilege you are willing to pay for. Robert Henri
- D** The quiet of the past tense. Larry Levis
- M** Looking at Morandi paintings is like studying the declension of Latin verbs. Fairfield Porter
- G** The role of the art object is to render silence. Samuel Beckett
- J** The marvelous is always beautiful. Andre Breton
- J** I go to the theatre to be astounded. John Lahr
- Lo** Beauty cannot be targeted; it is always a byproduct of other, often very ordinary pursuits. Joseph Brodsky
- Lo** When asked by a student at MIT whether he took aesthetic factors into account when tackling a technical problem, Bucky Fuller said: No, when I am working on a problem, I never think about beauty. I think only of how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.
- L** Love: A temporary insanity curable by marriage. Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary
- D** Nelson Algren's three rules for a happy life:
  1. Never sit down to play poker with anybody named Doc.
  2. Never eat at a place called Mom's.
  3. Never sleep with a woman who has more problems than you do.
- S** I realized I didn't want to compose pictures, I wanted to find them. Ellsworth Kelly
- D** The world is an illusion created by the conspiracy of our senses. Roger Penrose

- G** Work is the curse of the drinking class. Oscar Wilde
- M** Taste is as tiring as good company. Francis Picabia
- J** Plagiarism is when you steal from one person; research is when you steal from many. Dennis Norton
- L** Masturbation: the hand at the service of the imagination. Mimi Benoit
- D** Inhale one vision, exhale another. To steal consciously is the way of art and of craft. To steal through breath is the way of wisdom and of art that transcends. Nick Tosches
- D** Art tells us nothing about the world that we cannot find elsewhere and more reliably. Morris Peckham
- J** Sex and death are the only two topics that can be of the least interest to a serious studious mind. William Butler Yeats
- Lo** Craft: A fool's substitute for brains. Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*
- Lo** Music is the diarrhea of the intellect. Francis Picabia
- D** Stupid—well, there are so many kinds of stupidity, and cleverness is one of the worst. Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*
- G** Oscar Wilde preferred stories to facts and found lying (an art of fiction) more life giving than representation.
- L** ...useless chaos is what fiction is about. Mavis Gallant
- J** After seeing and chatting with these lovely women on the street I continued home, the fleshpot of my imagination took wing (and here) I took matters into my own hand and the palm of forgiveness soothed my ache. James Joyce, *Ulysses*
- S** Perfection of means and confusion of aims seem to be characteristic of our age. Albert Einstein
- G** Do not pad ignorance with eloquence. Vladimir Nabokov
- J** Style and structure are the essence of a book; great ideas are hogwash. Vladimir Nabokov
- M** An art that claims all the prerogatives of public discourse without having a loving or attentive relationship to lived experience seems to define just what we mean by academic art. Adam Gopnik
- S** If the fusion of narrative and commentary seems strange, remember that...this story-succeeded-by-commentary is one of the profoundest, most deeply rooted and accepted experiences in modern life: The newspaper story editorial, the play-and-review-of-the-play, the travel film with voice as commentary and newsreel with commentator are all primordial examples of what is going to be an inevitable literary form... In any case, as I just said, the chorus is one of the best and most popular devices invented in any time. Delmore Schwartz, letter to James Laughlin



- M** By using humor you can be excused from engaging in very serious considerations. It is an escape I suppose. Marcel Duchamp
- Lo** The true goal of art is to disappoint expectations. Georges Bataille
- G** Knowledge is knowing as little as possible. Charles Bukowski
- G** Life eludes logic. André Gide
- Lo** How can you think and hit at the same time? Yogi Berra
- S** If one really wishes to be master of an art, technical knowledge is not enough. One has to transcend technique so that the art becomes an 'artless art' growing out of the Unconscious. D.T. Suzuki
- D** Enjoyment is not a goal, it is a feeling that accompanies important ongoing activity. Paul Goodman
- J** I like a state of continual becoming, with a goal in front and not behind. George Bernard Shaw
- M** The foolish reject what they see, not what they think; the wise reject what they think, not what they see. Huang Po
- S** Computers are useless. They can only give you answers. Pablo Picasso
- J** Words, as is well known, are great foes of reality. Joseph Conrad
- L** What we call reality is an agreement that people have arrived at to make life more livable. Louise Nevelson
- L** No snowflakes fall in an inappropriate place. Zen saying
- D** There is no way you can use the word 'reality' without quotation marks around it. Joseph Campbell
- J** Believe those who are seeking the truth; doubt those that find it. André Gide
- S** When you seek it, you cannot find it. Zen saying
- Lo** Attachment to spiritual things is...just as much an attachment as inordinate love of anything else. Thomas Merton
- J** What is truth? I don't know and I'm sorry I brought it up. Edward Abbey
- S** We know too much and feel too little. Bertrand Russell
- S** The quieter you become, the more you can hear. Baba Ram Dass
- L** We are all born charming, fresh, and spontaneous and must be civilized before we are fit to participate in society. Miss Manners (Judith Martin)
- M** Don't think: Look. Ludwig Wittgenstein
- D** The truth of a thing is the feel of it, not the think of it. Stanley Kubrick
- M** It takes a long time to understand nothing. Edward Dahlberg
- L** ...each of us normalizes the terrible strangeness of inner life with a variety of convenient fictions. Siri Hustvedt, *The Sorrows of an American*



- S** I'm not from here anymore. Heinrich von Kleist, *Bartleby and Co.*  
by Enrique Vila-Matas
- J** What is a rebel? A man who says no. Albert Camus, *Bartleby and Co.*  
by Enrique Vila-Matas
- Lo** Art must make you laugh a little and make you a little afraid.  
Anything as long as it doesn't bore. Jean Dubuffet
- M** Screwing things up is a virtue. Being correct is never the point. I have  
an almost fanatically correct assistant, and by the time she re-spells  
my words and corrects my punctuation, I can't read what I wrote.  
Being right can stop all the momentum of a very interesting idea.  
Robert Rauschenberg
- L** Some unattributed quotes:  
He's not prolific, he's incontinent.  
Everything is as it appears to be and a little bit less.
- J** One day more is one day less. Charles Wright, "Portrait of the Artist  
with Hart Crane," *The World of Ten Thousand Things, Poems 1980-1990*
- J** Beauty is in the looking for it. Charles Wright, *Light Journal*
- J** Truthful words are not beautiful, beautiful words are not truthful.  
Charles Wright, *A Journal of One Significant Landscape*
- S** To hold a man, a woman has to appeal to the worst in him.  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*
- S** Perfect is boring. George Balanchine
- M** Criticism is prejudice made plausible. H. L. Menkin
- M** ...we're all in this together, only some of us have better  
bottle-openers. J. F. Powers, about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *This Side  
of Paradise*, *Commonweal* magazine
- M** I think you must watch what is always the great danger with any  
'surrealistic' style, namely of confusing authentic non-logical relations  
which arouse wonder with accidental ones which arouse mere surprise  
and in the end fatigue. W. H. Auden, as quoted by William Logan in  
his review of *Selected Poems* by Frank O'Hara, *New York Times Book  
Review*, 29 June 2008

## VOICES

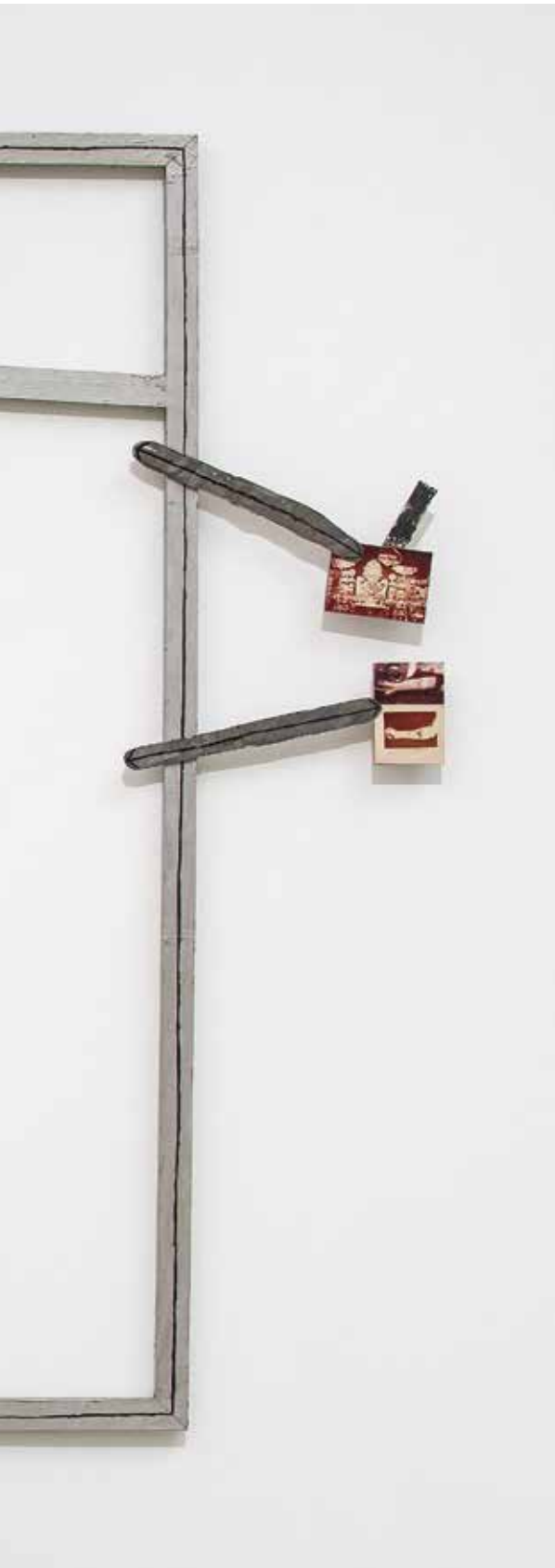
- D** Don Palmer  
**L** Lee Jordan-Anders  
**M** Myron Helfgott  
**J** Javier Tapia  
**G** Gregory Donovan  
**Lo** Lothar Pausewang

*The Feel of the Thing,*  
*Not the Think of It* (detail), 2008  
Morris Helfgott, the artist's father









*Fear Not, 1981-82*

*Portrait with Topiary, 1984*









*Under the Rose, 1987*  
Opposite: *Japanese Wrestlers, 2014*





*With the Help of Javier, Luis, Ann and Susan, 2014*



