



The Art of Rich Pictures - Audio

The Art of Rich Pictures in in Rich Pictures

Professor Simon Bell:

They're drinking tea, they're turning to each other and chatting and at some point you say to them 'right, kids, what I'd like you to do is sit down and draw a picture.'

Tessa Berg:

Why is the rich picture important?

Professor Ken Eason:

Ah, that's a good question.

Professor Simon Bell:

It's a big sheet of paper in the middle of the table and it's empty. Unfailingly someone in that group will pick up the pen and make a mark on the paper. They may draw a stick person in the middle which represents themselves and they may put a question mark over their heads to say 'I've got no idea what I'm doing'.

Professor Ken Eason:

And people start to connect with one another and have new ideas and see things they didn't see before

Tessa Berg:

Thick lines mean things – yes? They radiate noise and bandwidth

Professor Simon Bell:

The image has a power to convey –

Tessa Berg:

Meanings. It would be non-verbal communication through icons, feelings, emotions.

Professor Ken Eason:

The pen and the written language brings with it all the conventions – 'this word means that, this word connects with these other words in these kinds of ways.'

Professor Simon Bell:

You can see in the small child walking away, or the downcast head so many things. So many things that picture will tell you. If you just take a few seconds to look at it.

Tessa Berg:

It's a tool that can aid the thinking process

Professor Ken Eason:

People will say things like 'I haven't done this since I was ten – you know'.

Professor Simon Bell:

Gradually more strokes appear on the page. The paper starts to fill - deepen, strengthen, elaborate

Professor Ken Eason:

And you become more human. You become more another human being struggling to articulate some world that you inhabit or you see.

Tessa Berg:

Lots of different people – collaborative art – trying to depict a situation or a problem from many different perspectives

Professor Simon Bell:

It's a narrative. A picture is a narrative. And a third person looking in could almost instantly get it