

## Monochromatic Minds | Pre-Recorded Talk | William Tyler Transcript | 20 August 2020

Jennifer: Hello my name is Jennifer from the Jennifer Lauren Gallery and today I am joined by William Tyler from Creative Growth. Hi William

William: Hello Jennifer, how are you?

Jennifer: I am good, what about you?

William: Fine

Jennifer: And William, where are you today in the world?

William: In the house

Jennifer: And whereabouts are you?

William: In Union City

Meadow: He said in Union City

Jennifer: Oh, in California?

William: That's right.

Jennifer: Excellent. And is it warm there today?

William: Yes it is warm. There is smoke out there.

Jennifer: Oh yes I've heard about the smoke, that's not very good is it. So William this is a photo of you working at Creative Growth, can you tell us a little bit about what Creative Growth is?

William: It is an old drawing. With black pencil and coloured pencil. But black. There's trees and houses. The land, the water and the ocean. And sky and clouds. I do drawings like this everyday. No change. No change. Everyday. What did you say Jennifer?

Jennifer: So that's what you have been drawing in your pictures isn't it? So you like to draw houses and trees.

William: All the birds. All the butterflies. That's right.

Jennifer: And there's some flags in this picture isn't there?

William: That's right

Jennifer: And are they flags or are they signs?

William: Flags

Jennifer: And what can we see on these signs or flags?

William: Double flags.

They're about other planets. I do these drawings, I made it up.

Jennifer: You made it up?

William: That's right.

Jennifer: Excellent.

William: Excellent

Jennifer: And we see a lot of trees in your drawings don't we.

William: That's right, that's another black and white drawing. There was a lot of flags to draw.

Jennifer: Definitely

William: And the grass and trees. And the house. Another drawing please Jennifer.

Jennifer: Yes. William what do you like about drawing with a black pen?

William: I do the background in a black pen and then use a coloured pencil and layer. A black pen and coloured pencil – I use both. Like everyday. That's right.

Jennifer: Yes

William: There you go.

Meadow: So now he's doing a lot of work, well mostly all coloured pencil, but for a long time William you were just doing black and white.

William: That's right Meadow. That's right Meadow.

Jennifer: And William what do you like to write about in these pictures? There's lots of text.

William: There's a long story of all the planet. I do some more of it everyday. There's a long story, I keep it there.

Jennifer: So you write about stories about the planet?

William: That's right. This planet. Earth.

Jennifer: Wow, that's amazing. They're pretty long.

William: That's long. Next drawing

Jennifer: So this is your work hanging in my exhibition in London and yours is the one in the middle in the white frame.

William: That's right, London England.

Jennifer: Yeah. So there were two images hanging on the wall

William: That's right. That's me and Richard

Jennifer: So you and Richard right. And who is Richard?

William: My brother. My twin brother

Jennifer: Your twin brother?

William: Yes. It's Richard

Jennifer: And does he live nearby?

William: He lives in a house in Berkeley and I live in a house here in Union City like everyday. Yes

Jennifer: and do you talk to him often?

William: I sure did. Last week on Thursday

Jennifer: That's good

William: That's right jennifer

Jennifer: And it says behind you it's a book store or book shop – do you like to go to book shops?

William: I sure did, buy with my own money from [?] Sometimes its quite expensive, lots of money to buy books.

Jennifer: Definitely

William: That's right

Jennifer: William you have drawn yourself in the same clothes as your brother as well.

William: Yes the same clothes. Is there another Jennifer?

Jennifer: I love the sky in this picture, all the clouds that you've drawn

William: There's a tall number six flag. And P,S. all the flags

Jennifer: There's a lot of flags

William: That's right

Jennifer: And then there's no buildings at all in this one

William: There's clouds and birds, and the ocean, the tree and the grass... and the coast...

Jennifer: Is this all from your imagination William?

William: Imagination, I do the drawing. I did this [?]

Jennifer: So you are not looking at any pictures when you draw, it is all just what is in your head?

William: Yes my head.

Jennifer: Wow amazing. I love that you use the same marks and repeat them over and over again.

William: That's right.

Jennifer: Takes a lot of patience.

William: A lot of repeating. Next drawing. That's me William

Jennifer: Yes this is you, is this at Creative Growth?

William: Creative Growth

Jennifer: And what was this?

William: It's on the wall

Jennifer: So you drew on the wall?

William: That's right

Jennifer: And did you enjoy drawing on the wall? It's very big

William? That's right. Next drawing

Jennifer: And is that one of your houses there as well?

William: A different house

Jennifer: And did you have lots of houses that you put in front of this wall?

William: That's clouds, rocks and grass. I did some colour painting but it's too hard for me. That's right Jennifer, keep going. [It was too much for William to fill in all the color on the wall]

Jennifer: Well William, this was the last picture we went through them very quickly.

William: Okay

Jennifer: William why do you like drawing so much?

William: Like everyday, I've been going a long time, like everyday. No change

Jennifer: You've gone to Creative Growth for many many years haven't you?

William: That's right

Jennifer: Can you remember how many years?

William: I started November 1977

Jennifer: Wow a long time ago

William: November 1977

Jennifer: And how many days a week do you go there?

William: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 3 days a week in the 80s. Monday to Friday – 5 days a week in the 90s. 2000 – 00 and 10 – and 200 [meaning 2020's]

Jennifer: Wow it changes all the time then

William: Yes it changes time

Jennifer: And have you been doing any drawing at home whilst we have lockdown going on?

William: I do drawing. I do class drawing. I do drawing on all the paper like that.

Jennifer: So you've been doing drawing at home?

William: Drawing at home yes. I start at 11am today.

Jennifer: Oh you've got a class today at 11am, that's exciting.

William: That's right Jennifer.

Jennifer: Great. And William is there anything else you'd like to share with everyone about your art or anything?

William: I will share for everyone art. Times Square no good no more on the East Coast. New York City, New York. East Coast. We will get new President. Old president. Joe Biden. Became new President.

Jennifer: And William, can I finish by asking you how do you feel when you make art?

William: Well. Be happy. I'll be good and I'll be happy.

Jennifer: That's a good thing.

William: This summer Joe Biden will be a new president.

Jennifer: And William, I am just going to ask Sarah or Meadow if they would say a few words about what Creative Growth is for anyone that doesn't know.

Sarah: It's an art studio for adults with developmental disabilities that started in 1974 in Oakland and it's an art studio. Our philosophy is very hands off. The artist's lead and each instructor like Meadow are intimately attuned with this sort of process and support them in a way. I work on the gallery side. We represent them as artists in our gallery and also in external exhibitions. Meadow do you have anything to add about working as an instructor at Creative Growth or working with William in particular?

Meadow: Sure, well Creative Growth is an amazing and intimate community of artists taught by artists. It's incredible because you can have people really develop strong relationships with the artists there. I have been working there for 16 years and I have known William for 16 years now, right William? And we have become very close and very good friends and you really get to know their artwork intimately and their likes and dislikes and them as people. It's just really an amazing place. I feel fortunate to work with all the artists there – they are so inspiring.

Jennifer: Oh that's so good. Well William thank you for chatting with me today.

William: I keep it to Thursday.