

Transcription of New Ways Forward conversation with Nick

Amelie: What has it been like to be a part of Artists First?

Nick: It's been alright.

Amelie: Are there any things in particular that you've really enjoyed? Any workshops? Exhibitions?

Nick: Exhibitions, yes.

Amelie: That's a really special part of the work isn't it.

Nick: Yes.

Amelie: Showing your art.

Nick: Showing my art, yes.

Amelie: I was just looking at your profile Nick on the Artists First website and you speak about the enjoyment that you feel when you make your art ... how does it make you feel?

Nick: Alright.

Amelie: And are there any things in particular that you love to paint?

Nick: Things like trees. *Capture*.

Andy: So *Capture*, Nick, is a picture that you did a while ago. Do you want to say a little bit about it?

Nick: I wish I had a pair of wings.

Amelie: So that's the idea behind the painting?

Nick: Yes, it's the theory of talking about love. It's the theory about thinking of love and experience.

Andy: And freedom.

Nick: Freedom, yes. All of us are free from evil.

Andy: Nick, you won't mind me saying that quite a lot of your paintings have got some sort of religious belief in them. Where does that come from Nick?

Nick: The bible.

Amelie: So is that where you get a lot of your inspiration from Nick? From particular bits in the bible?

Nick: Yes.

Andy: You're also really interested in History aswell aren't you.

Nick: Like the history of Mary Queen Of Scots, who had her head chopped off by Henry.

Amelie: Andy's also told me that you love the Romans?

Nick: Yes. Our ancestors were the romans.

Amelie: Where does that interest come from?

Nick: They built Hadrian's wall.

Andy: Did you learn this at school Nick?

Nick: I learnt it at home. I got a DVD of it.

Andy: When we very first met, you knew all these things about History, the Romans, the Vikings, the Tudors. Did you learn that at school or at home?

Nick: I went to a Roman museum.

Andy: That was when you were an adult ... where did you go to school?

Nick: St Christopher's.

Andy: St Christopher's, which is in Bristol isn't it.

Nick: Yes.

Andy: We've had these conversations many times about the things that you've read and your experiences. Has Artists First helped you to put those into a form which you can share with people?

Nick: Yes.

Andy: You've exhibited many many times haven't you.

Nick: Yes.

Andy: And you've sold work many times.

Nick: Yes.

Andy: How does it feel when that happens? How does it feel to be an artist?

Nick: It makes me happy.

Amelie: Has it also helped, Nick, to work with other artists?

Nick: It does.

Andy: For people who don't know you, you can be an awkward bugger can't you ! But has Artists First always been a group for you to be part of?

Nick: Yes.

Andy: And why is that?

Nick: Because I can share my feelings with other artists.

Andy: You're all there to do one thing when you're in the studio. And so any stuff that's happened to you, you can leave at the door which is brilliant.

Amelie: Do you find that you feel quite calm when you paint Nick?

Nick: Yes.

Amelie: And I suppose working with other artists, you can ask them 'what do you think' , 'how should I paint this' ...

Nick: Yes.

Andy: And you've supported other people over the years aswell Nick .

Nick: Yes.

Andy: So if you remember Tom - unfortunately he's no longer with us - often you and Tom would sit together and even though Tom didn't speak, you'd share paints, share colours, get stuff for him when he wasn't feeling great.

Nick: Yes, I would.

Andy: Tom Hodson.

Nick: Tom Hodson. I would get stuff for him.

Amelie: If we go back to what you'd like to do in the future Nick with your art ...

Nick: I'd like to paint a few things ...

Amelie: And do you have any particular ideas in mind of what you'd like to paint, building on from any of your interests? It might be that it's not a time for any specific ideas, but a time to wait for fresh inspiration to come.

Nick: I'm going to start afresh.

Amelie: And this is going to be a new way of working isn't it.

Nick: Yes - starting afresh.

Andy: It could be a really exciting time. We've got our fingers crossed that you'll get the funding, because you're a really good artist. If you want to carry on being an artist, we certainly want to carry on trying to make that possible.

Nick: Yes.