

Absence: the imprint of something – the record of something
Ursula K Le Guin and the de-naming of animals
The Tiger of Bengal (play)
What's the difference between smell and taste?
Confusing taste and desire
Mixing up senses – some sort of logic. Erin Manning lecture
Somehow bringing a tent into the space.

LL = Leah Landau

RRG = Robert Rauschenberg's Goat.

LL: Sorry for the delay – there's just so much to do!

RRG: No prob..

LL: So first of all, thanks for having me – I mean, I know you have a busy schedule and it's not so easy to visit you so just wanted to say thank you very much. I hope this works, through the glass.

RRG: Not a problem.

LL: So first of all, I just wanted to ask you – what is it like to be put in a box? A glass box, but a box, no less....

RRG: It's actually kinda spacious in here, believe it or not. I was in a quite a dark place for a while, so...

LL: Oh, you mean.. you were depressed?

RRG: No, no, nothing like that. I mean I was kept in a very dark and warm place for a while – when I left, I was in a room with lots of figures with large and they were making a lot of noise so... but everyone was really nice to me. I can't complain.

LL: I see.

RRG: So it was kind of a relief to be in the dark for a while. I didn't like the noise.

LL: And now you're here! Pretty permanently.

RRG: It's true, I haven't moved for quite sometime...

LL: And the air is okay to breathe?

RRG: Yeah.

LL: Do you mind if I take a walk around you? Just to see the structure of this thing?

RRG: Yeah, go for it!

LL: Wow. It's a lot bigger than I thought. Like a giant surfboard. (sits down) I guess you must know, you are quite valuable. How do you relate to being worth a lot of money, and being argued over by institutions who want to have you?

RRG: I'm glad to be doing my part. Before all of this, I was a nobody. Now I'm in books, and people come from all over to visit me. I'm a one of a kind. And people don't really know what I'm doing here, they are super surprised to see me. And they make up stories about me, which makes me chuckle.

LL: Oh? Like what?

RRG: Oh like I'm a sex symbol...

LL: Wow?!

RRG: Oops! I mean, not a sex symbol, like I'm a symbol for homosexuality – like this thing around my middle is an anus... or maybe I am the anus (laughs). I dunno. And...I don't like to use the word 'endangered' because it makes me special somehow. I mean, I don't want to attach too much to the word, and what it means.

LL: Do you know what it means?

RRG: Okay so TRUE story is that I was in the apartment of some dude who bought me during the war, one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders –

LL: Who are they?

RRG: - the First US Volunteer Calvary – this is in 1951 - anyway, this Rough Rider ex-military guy somehow acquired me and I lived in his apartment. Then when he disappeared, I was lifted up and taken through multiple rooms, entrances...or...exits... and then it got really bright and I shut my [*shuts eyes*] and the next thing I knew... I mean, I was in some kind of hole and there was this SMELLING! Like, it happened through my whole FACE! It was so strange. Like, you know that sensation of getting hit in the nose ... like when another butt hits your nose, and your whole face goes numb? It's like that. Invaded by an alien in your head. I could smell cold, ash, . I could feel something squishy under my foot, and something soft and crackly but with hard on top on my breast. I guess my wings were a bit crushed.

LL: Your wings?

RRG: And so I just held my breath. Look, before you say anything, I'm not super comfortable with the word 'endangered'. It doesn't suit me. Am I the last of my kind left? YES. Do I want a big show and dance about it? Well....

LL: Wait. Where did you say you were born in....

(say at same time) LL: Turkey, RRG: America.

LL: Huh?

RRG: Well.. I mean I've turned more white now but... I used to have more here... and here... a lot of it's fallen out now....

LL: Your....

(say at same time) LL: Wooley coat?, RRG: Feathers.

RRG: And my nose isn't as sharp.

LL: Your beak? You don't have a beak.

RRG: Yes, I can feel it.

LL: You don't have a beak or wings. You're a goat.

RRG: I'm an eagle and I'm... priceless.