

“The Curator” by John

The title conferred onto the lighting piece understandably reflects the thinking of the day, but it cannot stand.

I think we have a duty to reflect, accepting the context of the day and rename. The challenge shall not be easy of course, but what I do know is that it must be done. It feels right and it is right. We should not shy away from such challenging conversations and must face it head on, together. Actually, the city of Leeds tends to do this rather well in my experience.

Suggestions for a renaming of the piece

My thoughts are that this falls under 3 categories worth exploring: The first of which I've called

1. Non-assigned perception names

These are titles that merely speak to the image as a non-contextualised drawing. It just aims to relate the drawing as a straight piece of visual art, if ever there was such a thing. These group of names bare little or no relation to the history or any overlaid analysis of the piece. It lets the audience raise it's own enquiry or curiosity. Examples are:

- Unnamed.
- Lady in a hat
- A lady smiles

The second group I have entitled

2. Assigned perception names

These set of suggested names give contextual richness to the definition of the piece, as may be recognised by the audience. It is not seeking however to transpose any particular view onto the image, but rather to respect the overwhelming story here that is obvious to the naked eye, hidden in plain sight as it were. This is evidently a sketch of a black lady, either as a sitter or from Phil May's consciousness. He is depicting a person of colour, as he sees it. This is of importance, I feel.

Examples include:

- Victorian person of colour
- Black Lady in Freehand

The final group are based on art & society, and can be more problematic.

3. Art & Society (disaggregated and personal)

These are suggestions in a group that seek to reflect deeper analysis of artistic interpretations of the piece. These names will probably cause the most debate as they depend on personal interpretations of art, society and the various mix of such. Examples include:

- My fair lady
- Black lady by White artist.