

Art of Olive Green

Towards Art, an Ethics & a Laugh

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“Of All the Works of Man” — Brecht

Posted by *getraer* on *December 6, 2012*

Posted in: Culture crit, Engaged art, Self-Sufficiencies, Upcycling. Tagged: Brecht, poem, poetry. Leave a comment

Of all the works of man I like best

Those which have been used.

The copper pots with their dents and flattened edges

The knives and forks whose wooden handles

Have been worn away by many hands: such forms

Seemed to me the noblest. So too the flagstones round old houses

Trodden by many feet, ground down

And with tufts of grass growing between them: these

Are happy works.

Absorbed into the service of the many

Frequently altered, they improve their shape, grow precious

Because so often appreciated.

Even broken pieces of sculpture

With their hands lopped off, are dear to me. They too

Were alive for me. They were dropped, yet they were also carried.

They were knocked down, yet they never stood too high.

Half ruined buildings once again take on

The look of buildings waiting to be finished

Generously planned: their fine proportions

Can already be guessed at, but they still

Need our understanding. At the same time

They have already served, indeed have already been overcome. All this

Delights me.

—*Bertolt Brecht*