

I decided that I'm not an artist..

(Or, it wasn't a decision. Maybe it happened gradually. Maybe it's not up to me)

***I decided that I'm not an artist
I decided not to be an artist
I'm not an artist***

Questions at openings: "what are you working on at the moment?"

"Nothing extracurricular, just work, just the gallery, just writing."

(The spare room at home has space, good light, a desk by a window.

I use it to write and answer emails.

I've started calling it the study)

***The study
The studio***

My other workspace is a desktop and a pinup board. Fliers for friends' shows, a photocopied page of copyright law.

(I should clarify, I like my job)

Questions at openings: 'Why?'

'I just stopped making time for it, it became less of a priority.'

(Like I can start again at any time)

Seven careers in a working lifetime, goes the common myth. Does anyone go back to their previous lives? Does it count for one career or two, if you do?

(The data is inconclusive)

***de-skilling
re-skilling***

Like riding a bike, goes the common myth. It's a lifestyle. A calling, not a career, goes the common myth:

(Like you couldn't quit if you tried)

I enjoy the new softness of my hands

(I feel nostalgic for the studio)

Do I miss the studio or one studio in particular, from years ago. 24 hour access, open plan, community spirit?

Friends at openings:

"A new space in a warehouse ... sharing with some carpenters... social classes help pay the bills".
Print-making Tuesdays, life drawing Thursdays."

Advice for professionals:

Make it a weekly habit to do something that challenges you.

Improve your spatial awareness, brain function, productivity.

Rediscover a skill you haven't used for years.

***Practice (n): You'll improve with practice
Practice (v): A practicing artist.***

Forget about the subject for a moment. Forget about *why* for a moment. Be in the moment!

Get back to basics: line, shape, tone. Confront the mysteries of representation.

Think about how.

How does a volume occupy space, how does a line function?

How do you get it on the page?