

# Coaching at Work Annual Conference 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London

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# Culture, Creativity & Complexity

Coaching At Work Conference Jackee Holder July 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

# Our Journey Today

- My intention is to take you on a journey through one particular lens offering an inside view into one aspect of diversity as it impacts me as a coach and my work as a coach.
- I hope our conversation today will stir up some things in you that becomes an invitation to challenge and question who you are and where your edges might around the topic of diversity and inclusion in the context of culture, creativity and complexity.
- This is not the whole story. It maybe not even be the truth. But it is some semblance of my truth and perspective into this area that is often silent in our coaching conversations.

# Culture



#### Who You Are Is How You Coach?

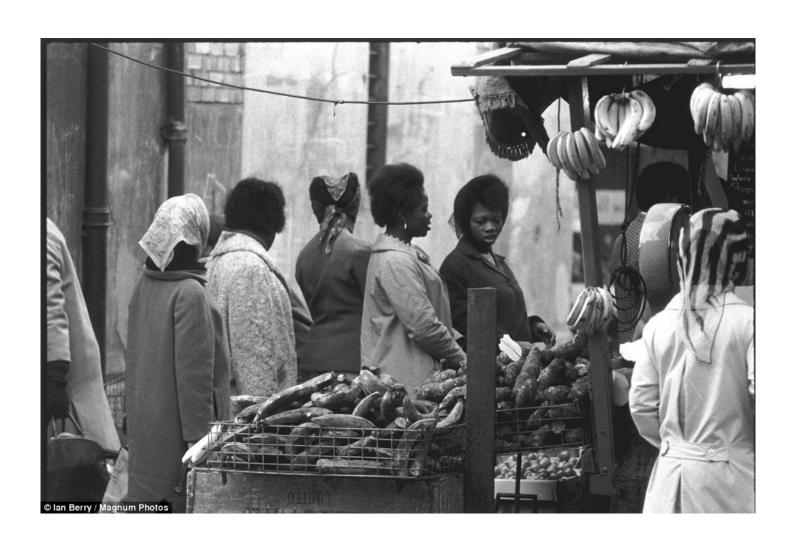




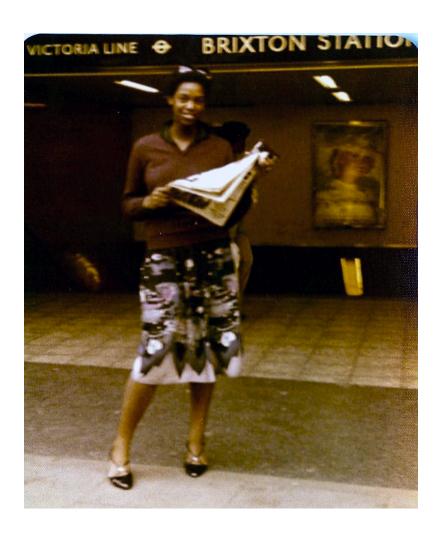
### 1960's Britain



#### **Brixton Market 1970's**



### Brixton 1980's





### Brixton Market 1990's



### Brixton 2017



#### Culture

- "There is such a diversity in London from street style to tailoring to couture to big brands that no other city comes close. London is a great example of successful immigration and increasingly one feels as though the city couldn't do without it"
  - Dylon Jones, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016
- 37% of Londoners were born outside of the UK

# Visibility

#### Ethnic Minorities in the UK

- Ethnic minorities make up 12% of the working-age population, yet their rate of employment is disproportionate:
- Only 1 in 16 of current FTSE 100 board members is from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.
- 1 in 8 employees in the UK are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.
- Only 1 in 15 people from an ethnic minority background are in a management position. (RfO Race to the Top research)

#### **BAME** groups and Governance

- Only 0.8% of local councillors in England are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic.
- Only 4.1% of MPs are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (as of 2010)
- Only 6.9% of public appointments are held by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals.
  - Diversity UK www.diversityuk.org

# **Snowy White Peaks**

#### Representation At Board Level

- That the proportion of London NHS Trust Board members from a BME background is 8%, an even lower number than was found in 2006 (9.6%);
- That the proportion of chief executives and chairs from a BME background has decreased from 5.3%; it currently stands at 2.5%.
- Two fifths of London's NHS Trust Boards had no BME members (executive or non executive) on them at all, whilst over half of London's Trust Boards either had no BME executive members or no BME non-executive member

# St George's Hospital Tooting



# Hidden Figures



# **Oxford University**



# Diversifying Portraiture Oxford







# **Celebrating Diversity**

The faces on the walls do not reflect the reality of today's staff and students. It will allow students to look up and see people who look like them. It's sending a signal to a wider range of students that they belong here.

More than one in four of our current students, including those from overseas, are students of colour. Our staff come from over 150 countries. But when they have their first lecture or dine in their college hall for the first time, they see images that do not speak to and reflect their own reality. That affects their sense of belonging here, their ambitions, and their academic achievements. Many speak of 'impostor syndrome' - the feeling of not having the right to be here because they do not see others like them.

- Dr Rebecca Surender (Advocate & Pro-Vice Chancellor For Equality & Diversity at the University of Oxford

# **Diversifying Portraiture**

Portraiture has tended to celebrate through traditional means (think gilt frames and heavy oils in sombre colours) a narrow range of achievement by a narrow range of individuals - scholars, clerics, philanthropists and leaders. And in an 800-year-old institution like Oxford, those recognised individuals have historically - save for the former women's colleges - been white men, honoured over the centuries for their contributions and legacies.

But, truth be told, Oxford has always been a diverse place - it's just that the traditional, oil-on-canvas way of recognising achievement did not allow individuals' multiple and complex identities to be recognised. Their histories and narratives were hidden, along with their complex identities and the invisible aspects of their difference. We make assumptions about those traditional old white men, but many wrestled with, for instance, mental ill health or aspects of their sexuality in an era of conformity.

That's why we have, for the past year, been bringing to light Oxford's 'hidden histories' by cataloguing and displaying **over 250 diverse historical portraits from around the collegiate university.** Many of those individuals - women and men - challenged the stereotypes and exclusions of their time. And we are now building on their legacy by announcing a new initiative, called <u>Diversifying Portraiture</u>, that celebrates the achievements of more than 20 living Oxonians.

# **GrenFell Towers**



# Diversity ... Unity



Evening Standard June 2017

# Look Beyond Borders Refuge Film



 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7XhrXU oD6U Chrishaunda Lee was 19 when a stranger shunned her because of her skin colour. Her course of action move in with the woman.



Illustration by Yvette Fedorova 2017

#### **Black Lives Matter**



# Intersectionality

#### intersectionality

Syllabification: in·ter·sec·tion·al·i·ty

Pronunciation: /,in(t)ərsekSHə'nalədē/

Definition of *intersectionality* in English: noun

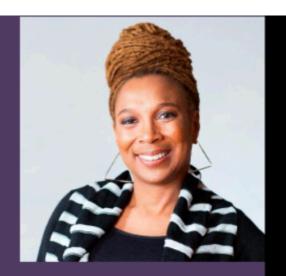
The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage:

'through an awareness of intersectionality, we can better acknowledge and ground the differences among us'

#### Kimberlie Crenshaw

#### Intersectionality

Introduced by legal scholar
Kimberlé Crenshaw,
intersectionality is a framework
for understanding the ways
that the multiple aspects of



our identities intersect, influence one another, and compound to create unique experiences. The concept is regularly used to describe the ways that societal privilege and oppression is complicated by the different parts of our identity that are marginalized or privileged in society.

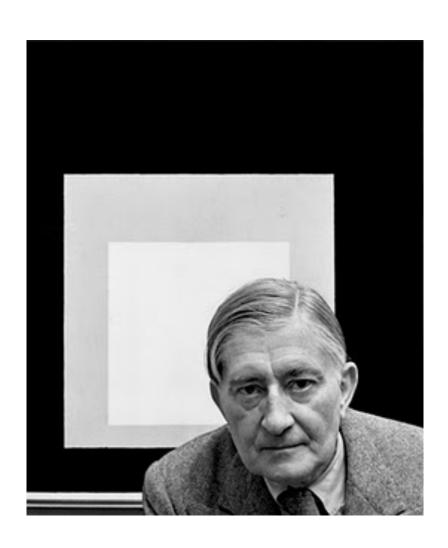
# Creativity

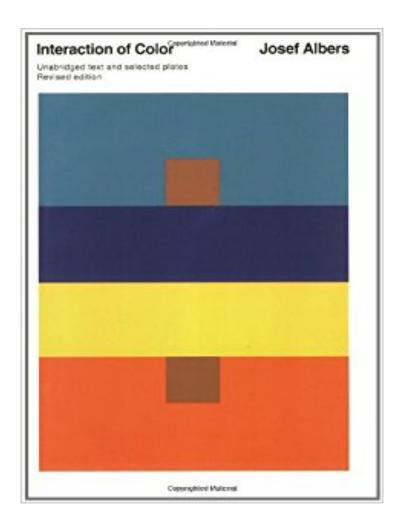


## Josef Alber



### **Josef Albers**





#### Bauhaus

"Instead of art I have taught philosophy. Though technique for me is a big word, I have never taught how to paint. All my doing was to make people see."

- Josef Albers

#### Lubaina Himid & Hurvin Anderson





# Freedom To Express



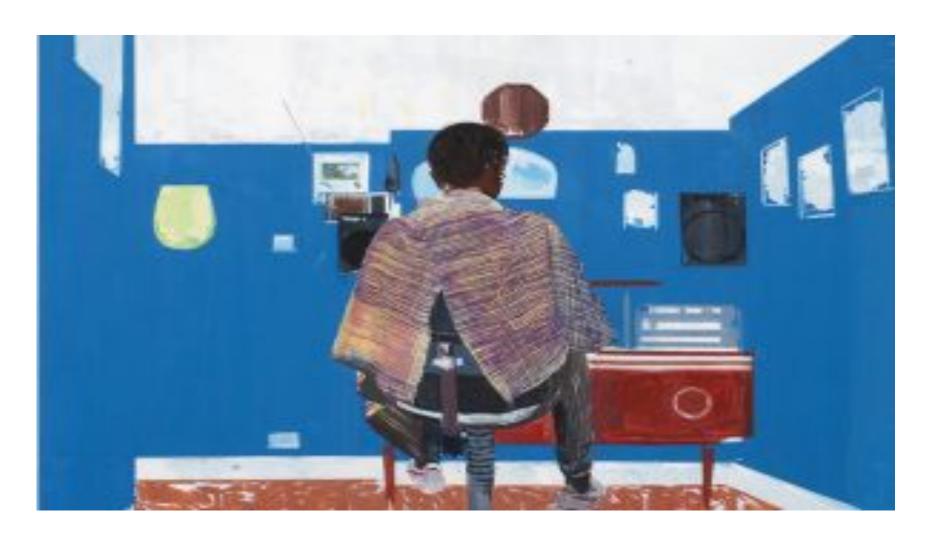


# Lubaina Himid shortlisted for the 2016 Turner prize





#### Hurvin Anderson Beautiful Barber Shop Series – Peters Sitter 3



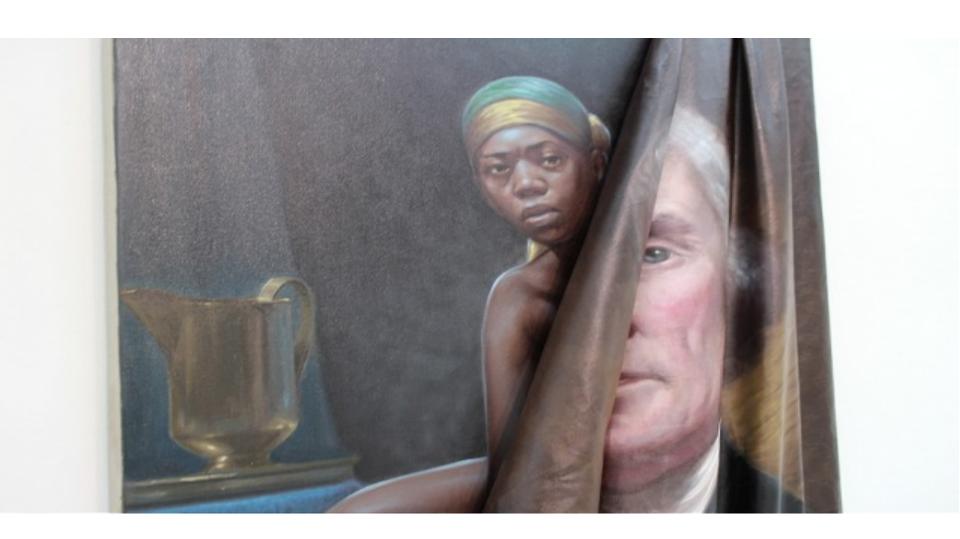
#### The story being told or not told ...

Peter's Sitter's 3 imagines a home barbershop, a cottage industry taken up by many newly arrived Caribbean immigrants in the 1950s. Rendered in a reduced palette of blue, white, and red, the scene conveys the experience of freshly acquired British identity, its aspirations and hard realities. The brilliant tones and translucent veneers of the floor and ceiling hark to the open expanse of tropical seaside, while the opaque geometric walls and modest furnishings create a rigidly grounded environment, conveying a sense of disorientation and displacement.

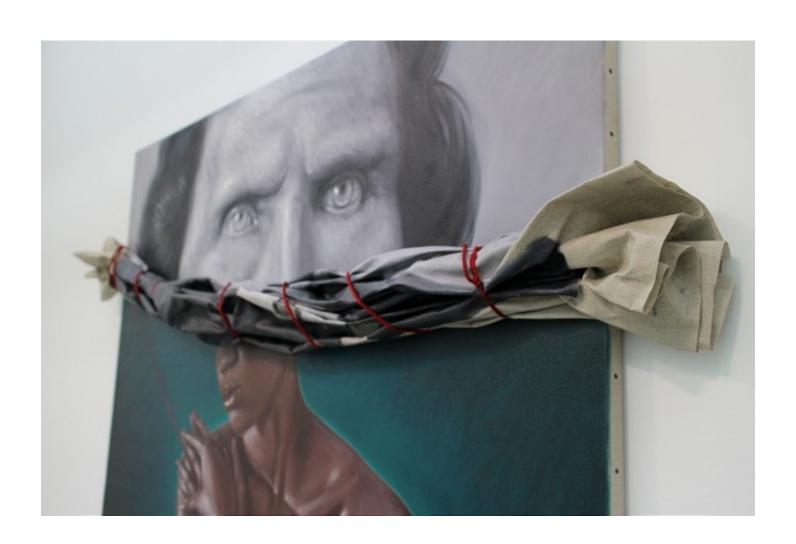
## **Hurvin Anderson - Attic**



# Titus Kaphar



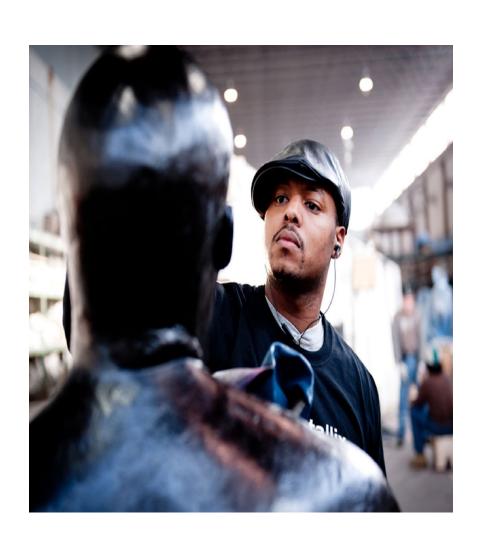
# Titus Kaphar



## Titus Kapar



# Titus Kaphar Working In His Studio



"The only way that I've found that works for me to really work through these issues is to get into the studio."

#### Questions

- How do we live forward together?
- What are our civic responsibilities?
- Where are you from and what is your story?
- What are some of the family stories and secrets that have shaped or influenced you?
- Where are the hidden and silent places in your work as a coach?

# Diversity In Visual Communication

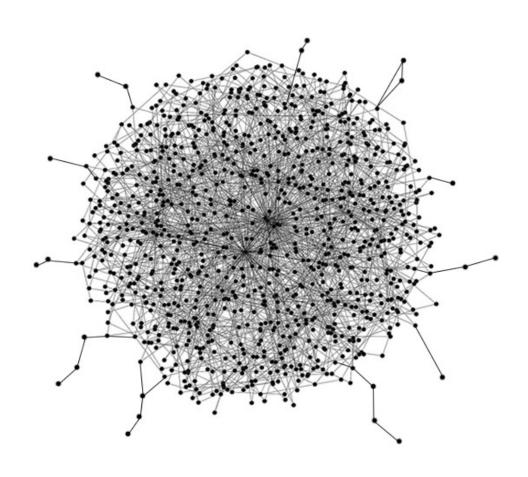
- No one can deny the need for increased diversity in contemporary imagery, which raises the question of who should take responsibility for driving this change.
- The simple answer is that everyone who plays a part in creating, distributing or selecting commercial imagery should consider whether the images they are working with are truly reflective of the audience they serve.
- Through our everyday choices, we have the power to change visual language and contribute to the celebration and empowerment of our diverse global neighbourhood. Andrew Saunders Getty Images

#### Mental Health & Well-Being

- They want to create genuine, lasting change in their companies. They
  understand that ultimately it is good for them and their profit margins to
  have happy, healthy and motivated workforces and working environments
  where fragilities and problems can be admitted to early and dealt with
  intelligently, before they become a burden.
- The most valuable resource of any company, is not of course its technology or its IP. It is the minds of its people. We should look after them as carefully as we can.
- The reason we don't concentrate on optimal mental performance comes down to an ingrained shyness and reserve around issues of mental health. Most of us bosses and workers, politicians and the public, are victims of stigma and taboo in this area. That's why so much of my recent work has been focused on persuading companies to break down the walls of stigma and demolish the taboo's. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it is good for companies' profits and competitiveness.

- Alaistar Campbell

# Complexity



# **VUCA**



#### Complexity

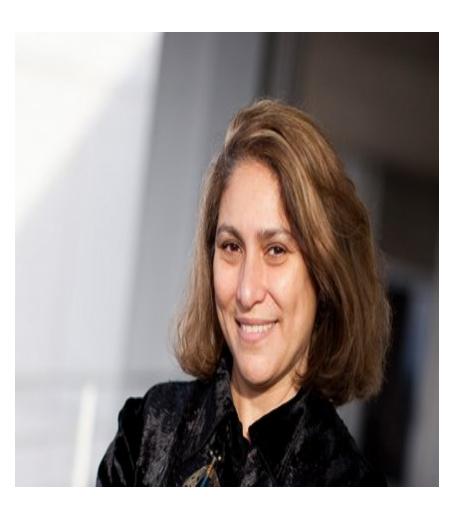
Yet human systems display many of the properties of complex systems. In particular, coherent patterns of behaviour can arise from the apparently idiosyncratic interactions of random individuals. This property of complex systems is perhaps the most significant of all: the seeming inevitability of the appearance of new and unpredictable patterns or phenomenon known as emergence.

– Richard Seel Creativity in Organisations, April 2005

### Implicit Association Test



### Mahzarin Banaji – Social Psychologist



Mahazrin Banaji is Richard Cabot professor of Social Ethics in the department of psychology at Harvard University. She is the coauthor of Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People, and co-founder of the implicit bias research organization Project Implicit.

#### Try This

A father and his son were in a car accident the father dies at the scene. The boy is badly injured and is rushed to a local hospital. In the hospital the operating surgeon looks at the boy and says, "I can't operate on this boy." How can this be if the father has just died?

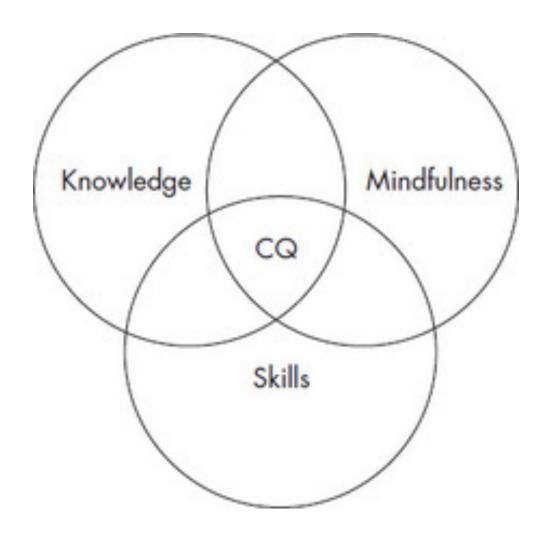
#### **Blind Spots**

"We fill in the blind spots with what we don't know with the limits of what we do know."

Race Bias in AirBnB

Breaking Bread

#### **Cultural Change**



David C. Thomas , Kerr C. Inkson. Cultural Intelligence, 2013

#### Vertical Development

This would require a different skill set for many learning and development specialists who must transfer from creating the programs for the executives to becoming the social facilitators of a construction process that involves all of the stakeholders in the system. Given this, the greatest challenge for the L&D community may be the ability to manage the network of social connections, so that the maximum number of perspectives can be brought together and integrated.

- Nick Petrie Center For Creative Leadership

#### Where's Your Influence?

- Human resource people, O.D. theorists, consultants, and training companies don't have great influence over too many things that happen within organizations, but one area that they do have a strong influence over is how leadership is understood and how leadership capacity is developed.
- It seems to me that the art of practicing this area well is going to get much harder, as it, at the same time, becomes much more important.

- Nick Petrie Center For Creative Leadership

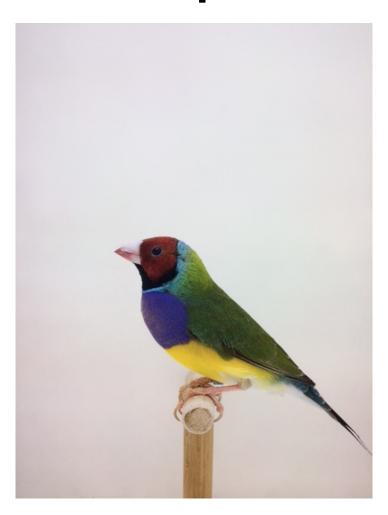
#### So What Can Be Done?

- Explore your personal outsider experiences. Name the skills you have drawn on as a result
- Challenge and be on the look out for inclusive leadership – Notice whose sitting at the table and whose voice is missing?
- Generate questions that highlight examples of resilience, risk taking and resourcefulness
- Support clients to move beyond the single story and author their lives
- Explore the value of community.
- Identify ways of which you or a client maybe covering

#### Curious About . . .

- What are the collective and individual responsibilities of the coaching communities when it comes to diversity and inclusion?
- What are the questions that would be useful to ask and be curious about as a coach with regard to self and others?
- What do you need to acknowledge, appreciate about your own culture, where it meets, is different or biased/blind/unconscious when it comes to experience, connections and behaviours of other culture groups?

## In Fine Feather – Luke Stephenson



#### Stanley Kunitz

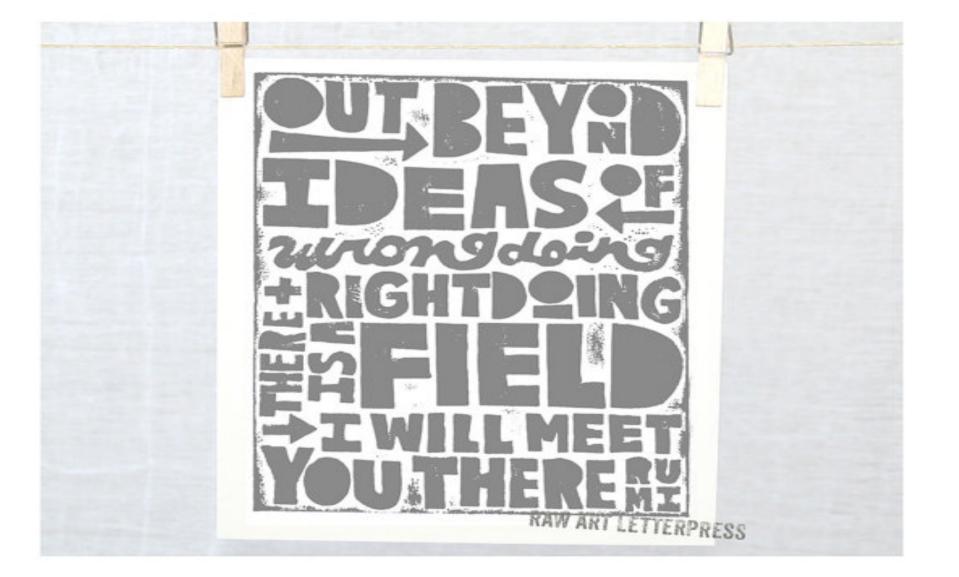
#### The Layers

I have walked through many lives, some of them my own, and I am not who I was. though some principle of being abides, from which I struggle not to stray. When I look behind, as I am compelled to look before I can gather strength to proceed on my journey, I see the milestones dwindling toward the horizon and the slow fires trailing rom the abandoned camp-sites, over which scavenger angels wheel on heavy wings. Oh, I have made myself a tribe out of my true affections, and my tribe is scattered! How shall the heart be reconciled to its feast of losses? In a rising wind the manic dust of my friends, those who fell along the way, bitterly stings my face.

Yet I turn, I turn, exulting somewhat, with my will intact to go wherever I need to go, and every stone on the road precious to me. In my darkest night, when the moon was covered and I roamed through wreckage, a nimbus-clouded voice directed me: "Live in the layers, not on the litter." Though I lack the art to decipher it, no doubt the next chapter in my book of transformations is already written. I am not done with my changes.

 Stanley Kunitz from The Collected Poems of Stanley Kunitz

#### Rumi





COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING:
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS

CONSCIOUS MAGAZINE

- HENRY FORD