
~ 5 QUESTIONS ~

with

OLIVER
MESTITZ

of earth shattering importance

1. If you could take one book to a deserted island, what would it be?

The Tao Te Ching, or a book of koans or sutras. Because a desert island seems like a good place to become enlightened.

2. What is your writing space?

I think writers tend to romanticise the idea of a "work routine" or "schedule". I'm also guilty of this. There's a whole literature of writers writing about writing, which I find very dangerous and seductive. In reality, there is no set time or place for me to write (stories or poems or songs). I'm desperate for ideas and anxious when they don't come. I write in my head when I walk and on paper when I sit down. The computer is also good for poetry. I potter. I brood a lot. I drink coffee.

3. If you are in a writing rut, how do you get yourself out of it?

I walk.

4. Pen, pencil, computer, typewriter, lipstick on a mirror - what is your preferred tool of trade?

The best I can do is be prepared. I always carry pencils and a paperback novel or book of poems, which I can write in the margins of if I get desperate. I have written lots of times on napkins and receipts. My favourite pen is a black 0.7mm Pilot G-2 07.

5. If the world was going to end in a week and you had to choose between a small remote island or a metropolis to live out your last days, which would you choose?

I live in the city to remind me that people exist, and have existed, and will keep on existing. I am one of these people. Many of them have made or will make art, including myself. At different times I am either greatly comforted or inspired or disgusted by this.

I was reading my journal this morning and I found an entry from a few years ago, ending: I would like to slip out of the world as quietly & unimportantly as I came in to it. The tragic thing about this is that, when I wrote it, I'd conveniently forgotten about the parents who gave birth to me and the brother who held my head and whispered in my ear and the nurses on duty and the doctor and the rest of the family back home, waiting for news.

~ About the author ~

Oliver Mestitz writes poetry
and fiction and makes music as
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You can read his story, *How to
Pick up an Echidna* in **Islands and
Cities: A Collection of Short
Stories from Tasmania and
London**

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