

Max Dean - Clip 1

On Becoming a Visual Artist

Well I think in my background there's a kind of artisan background. My mother's father was a tailor whom I knew and certainly respected and liked and we're talking about a time when clothes were all pretty much hand made. My mother was trained as a milliner...she was very skilled with her hands so you have the making instinct you know the artisan instinct I guess I'd call it, then you have I think added to that... you have another element which is the... I guess I'd call it the X element but you know it's the meaning of life business and so on and so that I think in visual arts you have an object which one hopes is well made. I mean if it's successful it is well made it does what it is supposed to do and it has also an element of response to human experience, let's put it that way. I know that's terribly vague but it's the desire to express what it seems to be to be alive and so when you have that desire and when you have a certain kind of artisan skill I think you get, you tend to get a visual artist.

