

# DON VAN VLIET

Galerie Michael Werner Berlin

## “Some YoYo Stuff”

DON VAN VLIET BY ANTON CORBJIN – Short b/w film from 1993  
A transcript of the film.

**Sue Vliet:** This is Don my son.

**Voice of Don Van Vliet:** What are we gonna do with you? ChChrururu Ruuuuu Uuu. You don't come through. What are we gonna do with you? Uuuuu you don't come through. Why don't you be true. Be real for our feel. Why don't you come through. What are we gonna do with you? Uuuuuuh.

Liddlle wijouh widdlewilüü badidlidl widuhwuhh wahnwebooung WILD wrouhahuo hiehaouuuu ouu! A littleeeeeee will dooooo. Uhhh! What are we gonna do with you?

*“Don Van Vliet  
Some YoYo Stuff  
with Sue Vliet, David Lynch, Anton Corbijn”*

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“HELLO”

**Don Van Vliet:** What is that noise?

**Anton Corbijn:** In 1980, here in the desert, I met Don Van Vliet, Captain Beefheart. I've met him quite a few times since, and basically, I really liked the guy. So, I made a sort of film, which is an observation of his observations. And it should give you a chance to catch a glimpse of his genius.

*“memory”*

**Don Van Vliet:** I have an excerpt memory. It's just not decorated properly.

“HELLO”

**David Lynch:** Howdy, Don!

**Don Van Vliet:** You talking to me? You talking to me, baby?

**David Lynch:** Yeah, I'm talking to you, man.

*"how are you?"*

**Don Van Vliet:** Maybe I'm in the zoo.

**David Lynch:** How's it going, Don?

**Don Van Vliet:** The way I keep in touch with the world is very gingerly because the world touches too hard. I enjoy the environment when there are no people around. Yeah. Gimme lack of people. Painting is fulfilling. The absence of space between the opposite meaning. Painting is so much fun. If you don't like something, you paint it out.

*„favorite painters“*

Mondrian. I like his paintings so much that I keep my mouth tastefully shut. Piet did a thing called Broadway Boogie Woogie, my favorite painting. You could hear the horns honk. Van Gogh did paintings so good that, upon walking out of the museum, I said: "The sun disappoints me so..."

The difference between art and music. One you can physically drown in being painted, the other you can mentally drown in. I prefer swimming and painting. Art is as close as you can get to perfection without getting caught up in the wake. I hate to talk about art. What can it be when somebody says: "I love the way you..." And I'd say: "I'm just combing my hair."

*"sculpting"*

When you sculpt little things, it makes your fingers feel delightful.

*"Why did you change Vliet into Van Vliet?"*

Need it. "SNIP" Bam. Need to be. I doubt on me without the V. Ahhhm. That's Jan and me. That's Jan; that's me. The ocean is very similar to the desert. It's just that the ocean is wet, and the desert is a dried-up ocean.

A painted birdcage above a hacksawed ocean with a lovely red mud stock with zillions of raindrops falling, is like where I live now.

*"EARTH"*

Lies material for a sculpture.

Roland Kirk was playing down in Hermosa Beach, and he came up to me on that last set and said Hahaha...: "Where can I get some ribs?" And I said: "The only place in Los Angeles you can get ribs this time at night, Roland, is in the Bible."

*"monkey"*

Nice hair too.

Ravens I use in my paintings because they clean up the land. Buzzards are nice, too. They also clean up the mistakes on the highway done by human beings.

**David Lynch:** Ah, Don, I think I told you that, ah, one of my favorite things you did was, ah, the dust blows forward, and the dust blows back? Or are you, you know, hearing any sounds at all?

*Music playing: Evening Bell – (1981 Piano Work tape)*

“EARS”

**Don Van Vliet:** A good visual.

The fish I used in trout mass replica stank so bad. It was just a cut-off carp`s head. Hopefully, animals are smart enough to stay away from the human beings because they're too nice. Humans are so mean that they, ah, try to experiment to see what makes them tick. Right now, the Chinese are killing tigers. Thinking it improves their manhood, and if they don't stop it, they have a pussy problem.

“ZAPPA”

The only Frank Zappa I knew.

I met Miles. Loved the way he could, ah, bend over and almost touch his toes and blow a horn. I won't soon forget him.

**David Lynch:** Ah, Don, ahm, I know you're from the desert, and ah, I was wondering, ah, if you could talk maybe a little bit about the sun and, ah, the heat of the sun and how that, you know, affected you.

**Don Van Vliet:** I'm glad it didn't stroke me. Hahahaha.

“message”

I like to tell you people watching and listening: "Boo!"