Teaching Myself To See

Tito Mukhopadhyay

Published by Punctum Books

Mukhopadhyay, Tito.
Teaching Myself To See.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/82859

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2833920
I always feel my temperature rise when I am looked at. A diagnosis of Autism entrusts one with a reasonable expectation of how others will respond to something unusual or out of the norm.

I live. And I offer visual interest around me. I believe that I have even become generous.... Everything — the morphogenesis of our cells dividing into heart and lungs, bones and skin, including our physical maturation and eventual decay — contributes to our beliefs. The chemical reaction in my brain from all of my seeing and being seen has taught me a vital truth. There is at least one predictable thing in the universe!

At times, I was a sacred map for a curious psychologist. He tried to discover a continent called Autism. He accepted whatever his textbooks told him.

At other times, I was an impenetrable fog for a stubborn therapist. He staggered his way through. A thick molecular jumble of vapor, I settled in his head. He believed that he could talk me to green and blue shapes.

Then, perhaps, I was a sturdy and impregnable wall for a special education teacher. He drew his educational graffiti all over me. He believed in a cause. I was the recipient of his beneficence.
While others formed opinions about what they saw, I swam through my days in search of my own beliefs. I had no need for science; I had a life to live. Why carry such a heavy backpack when air is already sitting on your head?

One day my belief tore the scaffolds through the crags and ridges of a brown rock. I could be crashing upon fire like temperature. I could feel the trap of temperature when I really began to look.