

PARSHAT NOACH
GENESIS 6:9-11:32
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 54:1-55:5
4 CHESHVAN 5784/19 OCTOBER 2023



Enso for Bones
Mixed media on canvass by Keith Morant

ART AS A VERB

1. “Come, let us build a city, and a tower with its top in the sky, to make a name for ourselves; else we shall be scattered all over the world.” (Genesis 11:4)
2. To the woman God said, “I will greatly increase your suffering (עֲצֻבוֹתַי) and your pregnancy; in pain shall you bear children.” (Genesis 3:16)

“Your suffering.” This is the pain of raising children. (Rashi)

3. To Adam God said, “Accursed is the ground because of you; through suffering (כְּעֲצָבוֹן) shall you eat of it.” (Genesis 3:17)
4. עָצַב - to hurt, pain, grieve

עָצַב - to shape, fashion

5. “This one will provide us relief from our work and from the toil (מְעֵצָבוֹן) of our hands...”
(Genesis 5:29)
6. The progress of an artist is a continual self-sacrifice, a continual extinction of personality.
(T. S. Eliot)
7. God made everything out of nothing. But the nothing shows through. (Paul Valery)

For Valery the goal of poetry was to invent a literature that could transmit *nothing*. He viewed language as deceptively determinative. The poem is supposed to open up a space for the object's nothingness to resonate with the nothingness inside the reader (not the reader's ego or self or understanding).

8. To the artist “art” is a verb – to the critic it is a noun. (Keith Morant)
9. I began to think of gardening as linked to my architectural practice....You plant a seed, it grows and it's such a pleasure to see results so quickly. In the long terms, though, what's most important is cultivating a terroir. In architecture, the way we do that is by creating community: You must have consensus, willingness and investment. In that sense, I would argue that architecture is closer to agriculture than it is to industrial production. (Toshiko Mori)