

LESLIE THORNTON IS STILL SEARCHING FOR PEACE

The artist answers the frieze Questionnaire

Leslie Thornton interviewed by the *frieze*
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frieze: Do you have a desert island book?

Leslie Thornton: Rebecca West's chronicle about the Balkans, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1941), which tracks the wonders of geography and its impact on culture and history: you can travel one mile to another village and find different customs and beliefs as well as a unique dialogue and way of dress. West's book presages the way small differences can be exploited by others, who stir people to hatred and violence. It resonates today.

f: Where do you go for peace and why?

LT: I haven't figured that out yet. I could use some help right now.

f: What do you wish was still a secret?

LT: Our own lives, wishes, desires, habits, politics, friends, health and phone numbers.

f: What makes someone an artist?

LT: Perseverance against all odds and sufficient trust in yourself. It's a state of mind that is not exclusive to the arts.

f: What should people avoid?

LT: Second-guessing.

f: *What's the best quality in a friend?*

LT: Fortitude.

f: *If you could be anywhere right now, where would you go?*

LT: Underwater

'Leslie Thornton: Begin Again, Again' is on view at MIT List Visual Arts Center, Boston, USA, until 13 February 2022.

<https://www.frieze.com/article/leslie-thorntons-still-searching-for-peace>