

2009

TRANSCRIPT OF 'ZEN AND THE ART OF SANDCASTLES' SLIDESHOW

DAD: "Right. Listen up. Boys, we need to make lots of sandcastles around the outside..."

NICOLA: "We get asked a lot of questions like what happens when it rains, and what happens at the end, do they survive, you know, do you rebuild them, is there a frame inside them..all these kinds of questions."

DAD: "...so then we can put flags in the top of every..."

BOY: "...and we make a wall..."

NICOLA: "And I found that when I first saw an exhibition they were not the questions that I wanted to ask..."

BOY: "and we can make a big round...round moat...and put water on it..."

NICOLA: "...I think the first question I did ask was 'how do you feel when they are bulldozed to the ground?' That was where my journey began. That was where I first started to think about letting go..."

DAD: "...and then we can put flags in it..."

NICOLA: "When you're asked what do you do as a job and I say I build sandcastles, it's quite...it's something that people are intrigued by...and the fact that it's temporary is kind of my favourite thing about it. The fact that it doesn't last forever, nothing does."

DAD: "Here you go, that's the first one."

BOY: "Dad, have you seen my bucket?"

DAD: "I've seen your bucket."

BOY: "It's cracked, broke..."

NICOLA: "It's kind of something that I had to overcome, building something and then having it destroyed was emotionally something to get over. But that for me is my favourite part of it. The fact that it's destroyed."

DAD: "Boys, Daniel...get your buckets...get some of my flags..."

NICOLA: "I'm quite a detail fanatic..."

DAD: "Don't worry. You're worrying too much about the detail. Let's just get them up."

NICOLA: "...sometimes in find myself shifting one or two grains of sand into position, you know, and you step back and think, there's gazillions of grains there, it's just ridiculous to be doing that, but..."

DAD: "...and then we can sort the detail out at the end. What do you think?"

BOY: "Detail comes first."

DAD: "No it doesn't. You'd never get anything done."

NICOLA: "You get caught in the moment and you do lose yourself in this work. I do, anyway."

DAD: "Come on. We need to do as many sandcastles around the outside as you can..."

NICOLA: "The first time my sculpture was destroyed actually, the rain did most of it. I'd created a Victorian house set in snow, made out of sand, over about two weeks, and I was really proud of it. And then we had a rainstorm which just destroyed the whole thing. And so I was kind of let into the whole everything being destroyed thing in quite a gentle way."

DAD: "Come on, the quicker you make the castles, the quicker we can put the flags in and the quicker you can demolish it..."

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KIDS: “Yeahhhhhh”

NICOLA: “I like to put a lot of love and passion into everything I do in life.”

LITTLE GIRL: “Do you like to kick the sandcastles...?”

DAD: “Yeah, we’ll kick em down afterwards, won’t we Sofia.”

NICOLA: “I recently lost a very close friend of mine and I’m still coming to terms with it now and obviously building a relationship with a friend over years and having to let go of that person, the destruction of a sand sculpture pales into insignificance...”

BOY: “There’s a massive hole in the end”

DAD [SINGING]: “I’ve got a hole in my bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza....”

BOY: “It’s MY bucket”

DAD: “Oh, I beg your pardon.”

NICOLA: “In a weird way I’ve addressed the whole letting go thing through the letting go of my work. Losing a friend is something on a completely different scale but it’s still in the same sort of field of release, even though it’s harder to let go of something if you have put more into it. It’s still worth it, it’s still worth the pain.”

DAD: “Come on, let’s make this the biggest and the best...”

LITTLE GIRL: “And then we’ll kick it over...”

DAD: “Ohhh noooooo”

[KIDS CHEER AS THEY KICK IT OVER]

NICOLA: “The fact that we create something, we make a memory, we make a photograph, that lasts forever. The memory lives on.”