

## My own thoughts on becoming old – alison *dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2006*

As an artist I did not think age was a big issue to me and was looking forward to being wiser and bringing more life and technical experience to my work in the years to come.

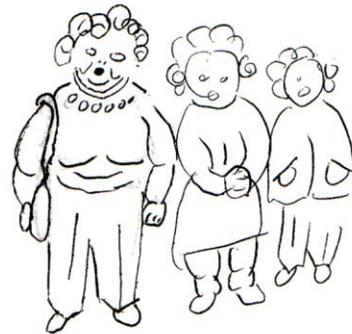
This work shop made me address the idea and how I really felt, the fact I avoided even reading about the workshop was a good indicator. Once I took a look at why I 'did not want to go there', I realized it all has to do with image. If I can grow into a 'COOL' oldie then I can embrace it. However we all live off our own experiences and genes. I have not met many 'Cool' oldies and each year I creep physically more towards the 'Everyday' oldie (my mother) and that is what I fear.

I thought a bit of image dissection may help me define where I want to go and what image details I really want to avoid. I have come up with 4 extreme personality types of old people.

1. The Ordinary Oldie
2. The Artistic Oldie
3. The Extra-Ordinary Oldie
4. The Plastic Oldie

**Number one** is the place I really don't want to go but will have to fight not to get there. Number one is just what happens if you don't intervene and let it all go, it's my granny and my mother, it's my history, but I don't want to be one of billions getting on the same SAGA bus on the way to Palm Springs.

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**Number two** is a place I would like to go but will have to fight nature and nurture to get there.

**Number three** is natural result of attention to your mind and body as you get older. While it is attractive it still lacks the image I crave. They are all full of personality and looks don't matter. It would be a great way to be, but without taking care of the initial image impact you stand a chance of getting grouped into number one and people may not take the time to find out you have so many interesting things to say.

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**Number four** is not attractive to me but I can see many people from group two having to go that way for the same initial impact I crave myself, so that they can stand alone and demand some respect. It's the easy but expensive option of growing old with distinction.

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Number two and four are just about changing the image of one and three.

*One funny thing to come out of this exercise is that I kept finding all this 'cool' stuff I wanted to buy my mother for Christmas and my husband kept asking me why I thought she would like it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

For Christmas 2006 I asked my husband for a Unicycle and got one ☺