

Quote

Posted on May 27, Posted by [Lois Lowry](#) Category [Uncategorized](#)

Thanks to Jessica for sending me a quote from Joan Didion:

"We live entirely, especially us writers, by the imposition of a narrative line on disparate images."

This was, of course, the same thing I was saying in my most recent post.

It occurs to me also that - taken to the extreme - this tendency is also symptomatic sometimes of mental illness. For example, if someone begins to feel that, oh, say, all the people who wear black shoes in the local Stop-and-Shop on a particular Saturday are actually members of a secret anti-Semitic society (because "black shoes" actually means "block Jews") and *only you* understand this and it is important to notify the government...except that many members of the President's Cabinet also wear black shoes; and come to think of it, so does your dentist, and he is the one who was in a position to install tiny microphones inside your fillings...etc.

The line between metaphor and madness is fragile, I think. Perhaps the task of the the serious - sane - writer throughout history has been to impose order and coherence on the randomness of human imagery.

I need to think about this some more.

But not right now. It is Sunday morning and the New York Times crossword puzzle takes precedence over everything.

Tags: Untagged