

## Soon I Will Stop Giving Unasked-for Advice to Giles Auty

Soon I will stop giving unasked-for advice  
in the hopes of an echo of something nice  
inferred in return.

I'm not sure what exactly is preferred;  
an agreement, praise for perspicacity  
or an audaciousness of thought indicated  
with bated breath?

I guess I must be approaching old age  
when I want to have a label of *sage*  
written about me. A sagacious author perhaps?  
Like Giles Auty perhaps?  
When writing about other critics  
of contemporary art, he is very smart.

I remember once when Giles was judging  
a regional art competition in the north.  
Preselected by lesser judges to save time, perhaps,  
Giles minded and insisted that he inspect  
all the rejected art stacked in a back room.  
He reinstated everything and  
one of the ignobly ignored pieces won an award.  
His subsequent speech to the assembly  
was witty and knowledgeable. He was lauded.

He goes on today in marvellous vein  
about *intelligible criticism or scholarship today*  
and all I can add to that is to say *Hooray!*

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