Other people on Larkin

**GRAYSON PERRY**

http://poetrysociety.org.uk/publications-section/poetry-news/feature-grayson-perry-larkin-lowell-and-me/

*“Like many embittered men of my age, I’m heavily into Larkin; it is men on the whole who like Larkin. I keep his Collected Poems beside the bed. I like the famous ones: the “arrow-shower” in the final stanza of ‘The Whitsun Weddings’ is amazing; I love the idea of this mundane train journey taken into the epic. His poems are incredibly poignant, so bitter-sweet, aren’t they? He’s the most loved of late twentieth-century poets because he embodies the emotional constipation of the English male, at the same time as being the most poignant of late twentieth-century poets. That’s why he’s such an icon – technically sophisticated at the same time as being a bit –”*

*Mawkish?*

*“Mawkish! That’s why I’d read a poem, to be mawkish! Crikey, I’m not interested in a poem as a technical exercise or for its literary references. I’m most interested in being taken along for the emotional ride.”*