Rev's Reflections

Maximalism

The Paper Moon Diner in Baltimore is bonkers, the maximalist creative expression of artist David Briskie, who has curated the space for over 30 years. Breakfast was good, but I didn't go for the Japanese-inspired rice omelet. I went for the visuals. The space is crammed — literally floor to roof peak — with everyday objects turned into art. At the front door there are three large cases full of neatly aligned PEZ dispensers, and above our table there was an assortment of mannequins and dolls that seemed to be held in place by wisteria vines.

Honestly, I've grown very bored with the pared-down, minimalist settings of so many restaurants now, all gray floors and white walls with nothing to look at but huge TV monitors. During our vacation, we ate in a lot of sterile white boxes that left me bored, so to be in a space crammed with so much nostalgic stuff felt like life itself.

Funny that, because I felt like the vacation was all about escaping the chaotic bombardment of daily events that is life in the 21st century. Contemplating a virtual cornice concocted of brightly painted wooden pegs, blocks and balls, it occurred to me that maybe part of the reason people *have* been enjoying the aesthetic minimalism of space is *because* of the chaos of the time. It's been a kind of respite, a counterbalance, a relief.

It makes sense. And yet, I'll take colorful, joyful maximalism any day, to keep me inspired, creative, and ready to take on abuse of power any way I can.

It's good to be back. Ready to work. Excited to see you all and begin a new year of creating together the world we want to live in, responding to the chaos as best we can.

In Peace,
Rev Denis