

Paint a Picture of Yourself

Harry Chapin

Well I hear you are a painter now
Though you're almost halfway through
You pulled a pallet knife, you cut away a wife
And you started something new

But it was not the strife of married life
That ordained what you would do
A quick look back through your history
Shows the same things goading you

It's just like you to try painting
Because you're color blind
Each time you conquer something
That's the time you change you're mind

And now your new preoccupations
Give you your handicap to start
Yes you're happiest when you're chasing clouds
With a halfway broken heart

Paint a picture of yourself
Let the images flash past
Don't weep on watercolors
Michael make this moment last

Paint the kid with restless eyes
Yeah the way you looked back then
'Cause the man keeps getting frightened
When that boy's not born again

I remember how you led us
Back when we all were kids
And the fact that you were older
Made us copy what you did

And that day you bought that cheap guitar
We all fell into line
We got hooked on music
But you drifted off in time

So I can see you at your easel
Splay legged there you stand
And your eyes are darting back and forth
Brush flashing in your hand

Yeah you're reaching always for that dream
You need to make you real
Leaning in a heavy wind
That no one else can feel

Paint a picture of yourself
Let the images flash past
Don't weep on watercolors
Michael make this moment last

Paint the kid with restless eyes
Yeah the way you looked back then

'Cause the man keeps getting frightened
When that boy's not born again, again