

Women's Work: Heleen Interview Transcript

This has been transcribed from an audio interview exactly as it was voiced.

[Noise of lab in background]

Being focused like I am in the painting, that is something I really enjoy. And yeah, erm, microscopes I really enjoy.

Yeah, I'm just working towards a question and I don't know what the next step is. Sometimes it's quite exciting.

Sometimes it's easier to see what you don't want then what you actually want.

Erm, so while you're removing the parts that you don't want, you go come closer to the parts that you do want, and then it becomes more clear. It's like a path that you need to walk.

You need to know where you are and then you need to move your hands and you need to know what kind of force you use with your hands.

So it's a, yeah, it's like you're a little bit in a bubble for that moment.

It's almost erm, like a mindful thing to do, so it's very relaxing actually.

I wanted to make the world better I think, like a little bit idealistic kind of view, to understand diseases and how we could cure that, but then I got kind of interested just in the development of organs and of tissues, and yeah.

I can of course only speak as a woman, so I don't know what it is to be a man.

But for a woman in science, it is difficult to have a family or to start a family.

So I think the more you go to the top, the less women you will see.

Yeah.

Sometimes I'm doubting if I'm like, if I am a scientist, but if I see that painting and I feel that actually I am a scientist.

I see the focus and feel so natural in a way, and then I'm like "Oh yeah". I actually, yeah.