

STOP IT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

There's a kind of diminution
well practiced here in the WEST
seeks to stop human beings from being all they can be,
from growing, maturing, becoming their best.

It's a subtle type of mockery,
a sort of *Stop, you can't do that!*
that comes about in response,
as a reaction to answer innocent,
of the eternal party question:

And what do you do? What field is it?

I'm a writer, and an artist,
you reply unthinkingly, simply because it's true,
and has been for a decade at least.

No!

That can't be right!
the questioner says,
brow creased, helpful, kindly, deep in thought.

You can't do both!

*So which one should I give up? you ask, stung. What do you suggest?
Which limb, or lobe, shall I slice off? ❀*