

# Tired Engineer in Training – Art and Science Combined?

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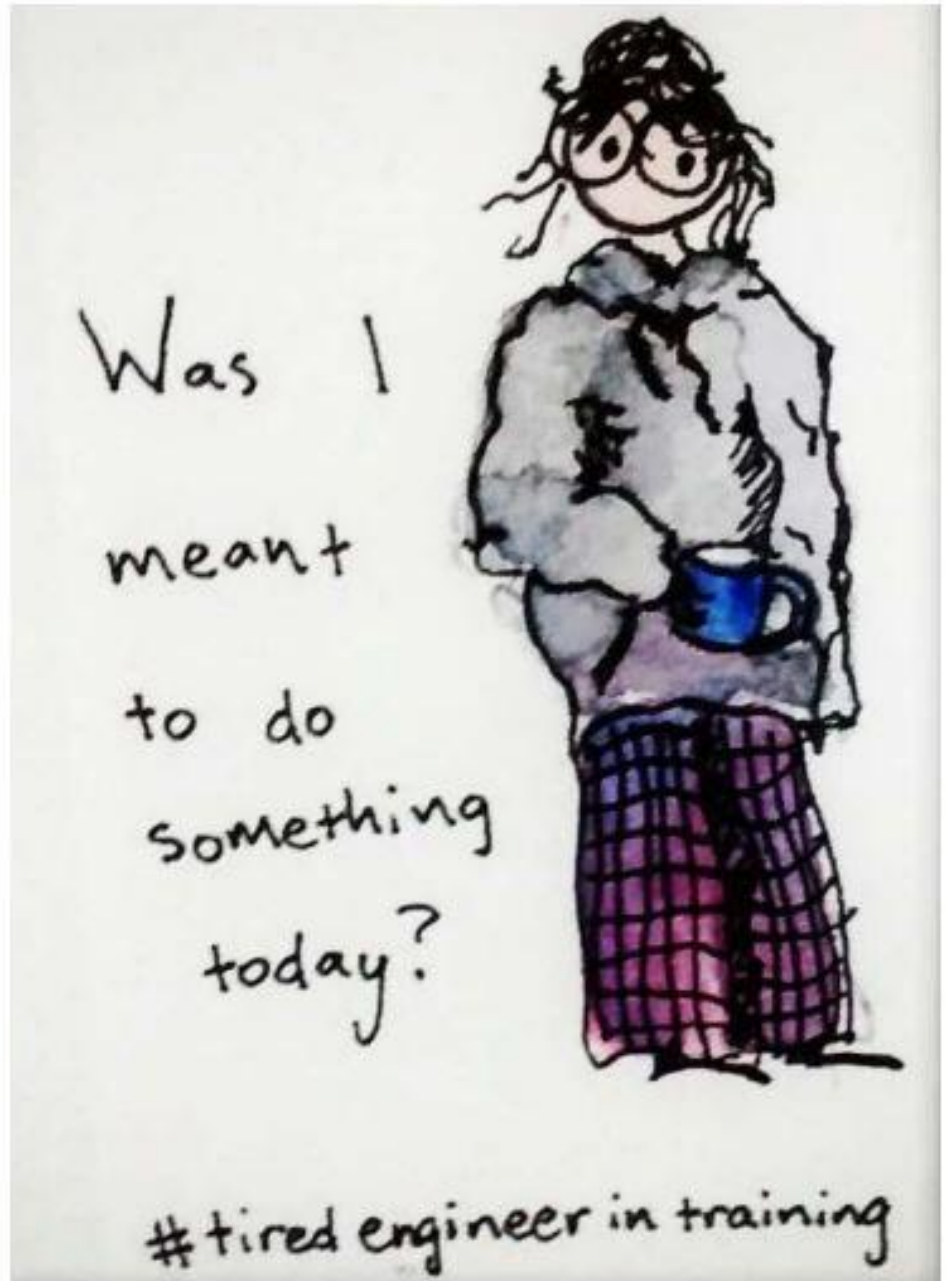
Many of us with little ones at primary school may have heard that they've started learning Computer Science. If you weren't up to date on this, it was introduced into the national curriculum in 2014 as a push for more interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths).

You may have heard the "Introduce girls to STEM" rallying call either in person or as you scroll down social media. To explain, STEM is now one of the key learning pillars of education and I have the privilege of being one of the first generations of girls to be caught up in the big effort for more "girls to go into STEM industries". Since I'm on my placement year here as part of my Engineering degree, I've been wanting to spread the awareness. Here in the workplace where some of us are parents, uncles or the "aunt that's not actually an aunt but is an aunt", it's a strange feeling for me to be wondering about how often those in the workplace take heed of this issue.

Working at HL in the mobile department has given me more insight into how any part of this problem is perceived. Looking around at the lack of women here on the ground floor, there's clearly proof (if you ever want to pop down) that there is a gender bias in the tech industry. Not the company's fault either, unfortunately it's purely because there aren't that many to hire in the first place.

For all of us who know little girls, I urge you to encourage them into any STEM industry. It's not all test tubes and fixing car engines, it includes art too. For those willing to call me out on my bluff, hear me out.

All of us are probably guilty of perceiving ourselves as good with numbers OR as a creative soul. Clearly with the push for more equality in STEM, it doesn't look like that's helping the logic vs creativity argument. I beg to differ and this is why I'm writing this article. Anyone can be good at art but also have an interest in numbers. In fact, the best scientists or engineers need to have an element of creativity. Not only does doing this give you an edge with the ability to think creatively in logical situations, it means that it doesn't restrict



you as an individual into just one industry, giving you more freedom. Isn't that the dream? I myself at school essentially had to flip a coin in choosing whether to go to art-college or to university to pursue my fledgling interest in Electronics. Going into any STEM degree doesn't suddenly shut down the creative side of you that wants to throw paint at a wall. But if anything, working here at HL has shown me how to appreciate my creative side in what is perceived as a technical job.

There should be a bigger push for

women to go into STEM industries in the workplace. This is happening with kids at school, why not here? It's never too late to pursue your interests.

For any of those still sceptical about how someone can be creatively minded and can possibly be in any way technical, I point you in the direction of my own website and Facebook brand Tired Engineer in Training [www.eleanoryong.com](http://www.eleanoryong.com)