

Babel Texts 2006-2007

Unlikely happenstance and the aesthetics of coincidence.

3rd May 2006

"A highly coloured visit [where] less were charmed [and] whoever wrote the land spilled over [and] swirled, lushly underdressed."

Raymond Haines, 9th November 1926 - 28th October 2005

1989 colour palette (re-worked 23.09.2006)

"A time to break down and a time to build up..." Ecclesiastes

Babel Texts

[text#1 here]

EXHIBITIONS PICK OF THE WEEK...the highs and lows from the recent world eco-friendly clothing customised and uncompromising in the British Army response to various locations associated with research and imagination behind special effect historic and contemporary cross-cultural power of colour depicting friends and family and their interaction with the English countryside in paint on plywood ranging from historic pictures to current cutting-edge digital images of media pieces including photography and print work that are a response to Townley Hall country house portrait paintings of people living in Britain in the 21st century inspired by trekking in the mountains of suggestive transparent layers to enable the spiritually of observing the tension between traditional rural scenes and the realities of modern life to be displayed on the north side of the local markets and massage parlours produce a parody of western expectations from his Lake District tour in 1806 and his late mother during his tenure using a range of media and styles includes the well known piece capturing the changing landscape of Halifax through the great change between 1940 and 1979 in their own words and pictures and celebrates the contribution comprising largely of white lines on motoring artists featuring 3D pieces and wall hung new media works exploring the darker states of the human psyche reflecting the post 9/11 world where safety and stability have been called together for the first time major works as rarely accomplished marine exploration of the Bronte family specialising in images of nature on canvas and print glass blowing slip-cast Raku-fired drawings as part of Her Majesty's skills as an artist scientist and engineer of local scenes and scenarios inspired by the Yorkshire countryside attempting to unlock the earth's mythological features and create a dreamlike otherworldly place incorporating transcriptions annotations and drawings taken from the Gascoigne family who owned Lotherton Hall from the beginnings of the first world war until the late 1970s including work from the local camera clubs inspired by the natural world and abstract photography exploring colour relationships in the form of a fully charged 1975 milk float on the themes of flora and fauna including the fragile and ambitious nature of existence to chart the effects of climate change of acclaimed screenprints on traditional genres including the concept of chaosmos past magazine covers and old headlines rapidly changing The Angel of the North rising out of the sand as the third in a series of sculptural work directly influenced and inspired by the church building and its surroundings and 20th century icons including The Beatles using a variety of media such as acrylics and charcoal exploring the historical significance as a way of defining our times and focusing upon society as a whole displaying the talents of actual and virtual objects, music and projections where the distinction between reality and fantasy becomes blurred by the beautiful changing face and curiosities exploring the relationship between the spiritual and the material topical creative journey from a different one displayed each week on the city centre billboard architectural installation design on the industrial heritage of the buildings and act as a beacon celebrating the contribution of many survival techniques boat building methods and navigation skills all needed to escape a desert island live art film and video in an audiovisual installation exploring how music can be used as a form of communication between UK and Norwegian people normally kept behind the scenes drawing together a body of activity from Japan in an innovative way introducing the power of the human gaze and the relationship that exists between the viewer and the viewee preview including pieces never before seen outside France on the waterfront in the port of Algiers that explore the identity of the city and personal stories creating a unique and personal view of African participation in urban Mancunian dwelling and its youth culture focusing on debauched glamour and taking inspiration from hands-on history of the humble fastener featuring buttons from around the world and ones that are admired for their decorative photographs of the iconic Manchester band featuring song, dances, speeches and other performative behaviour moments after the IRA devastated the city centre throughout the four seasons applied with both brush and fingers to create an unfinished effect portraying the artist's feelings

and the glutton's paradise and myth from the 14th century in which hams grew on trees and rivers flowed with wine on handmade paper to create the USA in an attempt to evoke respect for past and future visitors to scrutinize an exploration of responses to ancient Hindu texts and stories, graffiti and manga gods painted directly onto the walls of Manchester, New York, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing from the early 1990s seaside resort fields and poppies and dead bodies inspired by time spent in a scrap yard displaying a vivid use of colour and continual motion clips from classic movies depicting cityscapes and quayside watercolours of vibrant and lively illness and disability inspired by the mining era and industrial landscape at the mouth of the River Tees spectacular secrecy focusing on magic sexuality religion political conspiracy and assumed identity of the summer season wall hangings using the drama of living in an urban environment including wood and jewellery in all their various guises telling the story of eight Preston soldiers exploring the contrast between history and modernity whilst capturing the conditions of housing in the local area over the wide range of quilting kitsch with the commonplace to reflect feelings of uncertainty fear and hope to mark 15 years of exploring the geological world including rocks and Rome's landmarks into overlapping colourful and intriguing iconic everyday living under the shadow of some of the world's most well-known and best-loved artists including urban and social possibilities to address the selfdestructive original screenprints which complement the poetry or melancholic mood that suggest the banality of everyday existence taken predominantly from the gallery's permanent poetic silverware joys of travel in a grand tour of the world stretching from the south of France and Venice to Jamaica and the dogs and Yorkshire costumes and opera sets shown alongside video-art projections paintings photographs and underwater landscape collage pastel paint pencil or other traditional print methods including framed pastel and enamel colour photography and diverse mix low resolution mobile phone camera and blows them up from the Hubble Space Telescope carved from one of the largest pieces of jade in a transient "homes within homes" of monumental thought-provoking light firsthand witness testimonies and accounts of mining disasters underwater including lobsters, spider crabs and interactive silver dessert service English Slipware that demonstrates his ability to capture the elevation of power and military mosaics painted with line upon line of delicate hairnets filled with resin-covered horse hair from discarded famous faces including The Queen Mother and miniature paintings exploring how beauty can be influenced by nature and traditional Japanese luminous windows on upholstered fabric from childhood working as an air stewardess captured in 1771 depicting the Welsh landscape from 200 years ago.

©David Patten 23.09.2006

[text#2 here]

EXHIBITIONS PICK OF THE WEEK...visual vocabulary with intensely distressed domestic imagery that occupies a city centre apartment centred around a recent series of digitally manipulated ecological allegories akin to a genre of movement and soft colours featuring pieces by Ya-Africa and Hawa screenprints and lithographs dating from the 1970s equivalent (semi) fictional wildlife shots and best known exploration of Mongolian maritime ceramics through the eyes of dancers using shape, shadow and light to create emotion and humour as a bleak but beautiful insight into the creative working progress to unsettle notions of the pastoral Arctic Monkeys installation that invites visitors to horizontal architectural folk traditions exploring the ideas of reality and taboos of innovative and contemporary carbon fibre forms depicting the experience of visiting Alcatraz examined through advertising material digitally illustrated stories depicting landscapes in England France and Greece developed by the British Council and The Climate Group to raise a family-friendly exhibition of New World tapestry reviewing the early restoration of the ship's engine using a variety of materials including Indian paintings shown alongside old favourites and contemporary pieces capturing images of graffiti of the domestic and exotic spiritual experience of the most attractive and interesting journey of 15 people including a teacher zoologist and medical researcher from the castle as inspiration to produce journal entries depicting a Trans Siberian/Mongolian train journey exploring dementia interpretations of contemporary automated model of Israel erosion of the traditional way of life for the East Midlands coal and hand-drawn images exploring the emotional ties risks and choices facing the changing black windows of security vans as prisoners are awkward-looking climbing frames within a picturesque building used to evoke joy or the conflicting feelings of homeliness and emptiness considering both the fragility and brutality of the effect of mass horticulture and tourism situations with objects from the dying trade of farming in urban thoroughfares at the roadside with the orange sodium lighting all over the costumes and accessories worn in the 1930s that have been traded in for the streets of Sydney in Leeds and County Mayo responding to the theme of different jigsaws as well as the process of redevelopment within urban nautical life linked live to a large screen together with some framed abstract themes including time wirework US military exercises at the moment they are illuminated only by the candles that they are blowing out on the beaches of the Mediterranean tattooing piercing hair styles and makeup from past collections of the imagined continent of one of the three lands of ancient anecdotes about the historical city office spaces looking at how they vary as well as drawing current visual art trends from the artist's native models and original bronzes with a wide array of ethnographic references incorporating folk traditions and supernaturally charged pencil

work and an audio-visual presentation displaying mixed-media large-scale sculptural ceramics inspired by both public and private idea-based graphic design to explore the current state of prisons in an attempt to encourage debate on aspiration and success through low quality internet images examining the transformation of Nottingham by challenging grief for children in an evocative concrete installation of 30 pillars each housing an image of Nottingham city centre that can be viewed on blackboards in Haiku seventeen syllable poetry after being interpreted by the 18th century military figure beyond the accepted understanding of iconic composition of collages paintings and site-specific installation created from 450 mudbricks demonstrating Europe's continuing interest in the poet's relationship with 200 significant and domestic objects applied to everyday life in an exploration of the practical and aesthetic use of bends folds and creases of shoes and bags by introducing unfamiliar materials into the fashion and accessories from the Georgian period that were worn by mythological and dream-like 1950s curators for the first time exploring relationships to spaces, places and institutions grounded on the notion that reality and perception are not paintings and sculptures made from the passions and beliefs of beauty and ugliness inspired by memories of childhood visits to Dudley Zoo when the impressionist movement was capturing the emerging modern world with spontaneity and wire hummingbirds and stone bubbles in the Blakenhall area of Wolverhampton exposing war and exploring the connection between public demonstration of housekeeping in decorative sewing including quilts rag rugs samplers embroidery smocks and a sexually objectified installation from the 15th century inspired by Rodin while living on the outskirts of Madrid whilst retaining the meaning and decoration of traditional and contemporary spoons influenced by the scarred and eroded surface of the earth from the limitless view of a cowboy gazing across the horizon of gallows and painted clothing idolised in statues and tombs as Gods and protectors of Paul Sandby in 1771.

©David Patten 03.10.2006

[text#3 here]

EXHIBITIONS PICK OF THE WEEK...A collection of multimedia elephants challenging the quintessential view of the city's past and the Scottish landscape ballet costumes comparing leeches to consumerism exploring the physical damage to the earth's surface through detailed plaster models laminated between toughened glass and stoneware inspired by a trip to California in China to unsettle notions of the pastoral image and explore a corrupted glass lift space where issues such as street violence at jazz doodle-style mixed media that invites visitors to lie on a horizontal zodiac with Chinese horoscopes and video documentary in clay album covers of car crashes and colourful postcards depicting the experience of visiting Alcatraz by Bristol's businesses gardens and Isambard Kingdom Brunel inspired by the Baltic Sea survey by various glitterballs charting the restoration of rarely-seen abstract painting exploring the subversive potential of knitting contrasting styles with old and contemporary fine printing from the Punjab to the ways in which people promote peace in the last 10 years of living in the Appalachian urban developments along the coastline wedding industry and the work of marriage brokers in a farmhouse prior to celebrating US military exercises in the streets of Sydney documenting the physical transformation of large-scale panoramic human interaction with an extended exposure time up to 3,000 years of rice using an array of Leicester's rocks, fossils and colourful biodiversity and large scale rope in a variety of acrylic and pencil sculptural public work combining art and architecture to explore the videogame grief both at home and abroad in an artist's studio once shared between identity and place based on the accepted understanding of the 18th century military created from 450 mud bricks juxtaposing mythological and dreamlike childhood visits to Dudley Zoo in the 1970s and their travels in four continents and abstract vessels into memory and spatial awareness centred around a short film displaying the importance of life-size creative narratives of suffering loss and disempowerment inspired by the Welsh landscape.

©David Patten 30.10.2006

"...a Babel of unconverging artistic conversations" [Arthur Danto]

[text#4 here]

Current Research...sunlight focused through strategies for rewriting the history of restrained scepticism alongside hysterical excitement and a new concept hospital gown shot on 35mm format in the northern and southern hemispheres on natural fabrics such as silk, velvets, cotton and wools with the use of reactive site specific painting installation concerned with spatial practice and spatial displacement within the domestic landscape and story telling to explore the nature of human practices into the relationship of time to the physicality of the impact of digital technologies in conjunction with traditional activities of everyday memory, intimacy and the re-animation of the public domain and the creative commons through the historical relation between painting as a unique and singular object and critical reception of

image and the medium of slide projection at 1000,000mph in the dynamic between site-specific wall drawings sound and phenomenographic and social constructivist approaches to short papers past and present that deal with attraction and post-autonomous notions of place and slippages or disproportionate readings of space in London and on the Sussex coast plucked from the cultural politics involved in foreign bodies in a familiar phenomenon of spontaneous urbanisation concerned with notions of author, audience and technologies belonging to the club or disco deployed by those working in the area of the widest possible range of materially slight things to embody complex imaginative trips to places reported in the daily 'paradox' of parallel spaces in relation to newly defined historicity or states of nostalgia determined by research and discussion of pollution and waste in hyperassociative thought resulting from this algorithmic cultural programme about public commissioning strategies with the Environment Agency over the wild goose chases inherently concerning the hospital gown exploring complex geometries and spatial distortions in the Church of class identity in England and elsewhere related to hand made narrative knits for architectural and psychological indeterminacy in experimental community collaborations whose outcome is material for nuclear waste workshops in collaboration with the Tate Britain's education department to unfold and engage on many different selves express their sense of selves within the industry links and awareness in order to generate alternative investments in an imaginary space of openness between spectator and psychoanalytical transnational interactions of blurred and distorted 'non-mathematical' passages within the Swiss chalet in nineteenth century English domestic architecture at the De La Warr Pavilion.

©David Patten 11.01.2007

"...a Babel of unconverging artistic conversations" [Arthur Danto]