



Simon Glaister

The Sun Shines Bright

19 February – 27 February 2010

WILD PROFUSION, SUDDEN VICINITY:

– the summer residency of Simon Glaister at Enjoy Gallery

By Ann Poulsen

‘The gallery has become the landscape of the desert...to represent an expanse of consciousness, knowledge and experience...’ Jeremy Booth

Visions are by definition surreal; and yet what does this term ‘by definition’ mean in relation to the ineffable? If cleansing the doors of perception enables us to explore the ‘mind’s antipodes’ (Aldous Huxley), this is both a cognitive and a linguistic terra incognita. Can awareness expand beyond language, the world be experienced as wild profusion, sudden vicinity?

Michel Foucault describes this possibility not as a heretopia, a non-place where the syntax holding words and things together is destroyed, but as a ceremonial space where order is liberated, remade; lived as immanence. Within this space, one of the formal means by which such a ceremony can be enacted is sculpture, the practice of structuring the relation between things; whether this be through time, space or symbols.

An equation is one way of expressing a relation, a taxonomy another. The alphabetical list constructed by Simon Glaister—misappropriated here as a sample rather than a summary of the work produced during his residency—jubilantly defies the convention that taxonomic categories are mutually exclusive. Under the influence of mescaline, reality is not disordered but transfigured; all things expresses this by disrupting the very method by which our knowledge of the world is scientifically and philosophically constrained, by taking as its genus all things.

To participate in a ceremony, even in the most perfunctory way, is to allow for the possibility of a new way of experiencing the self, an altered personal consciousness. Ceremonies can take many forms, including games; if all things invites viewer participation, it also offers the opportunity to play. This reconfigured relation to art is another way of cleansing the doors of perception.

CATEGORICALLY

a personalized catalogue

a) all things

- strange categories will be assigned a precise meaning and demonstrable contents

b) because I said so

- I question your authority on this point; art obliges me to do so

- c) crop circles
 - artificial agriculture, deploying industrial means of production for symbolic ends, which may or may not be a form of poetic justice depending on the identity of the maker
- d) disappointing
 - the progress made by reason
- e) estranged from its proper place
 - a shovel, in advance of a broken arm
- f) forgotten
 - the memory arts
- g) gathering dust
 - the occupation of analog photographers
- h) held tightly
 - a critic's breath; and convictions
- i) inside my skin
 - world I cannot get thee close enough
- j) just about finished
 - irony
- k) known to be of value
 - but only to the artist; everyone else is playing the futures market
- l) lost in museums
 - the history of art
- m) made of marble
 - past loves
- n) not included in this system of categorisation
 - the boring, the bitter; space is left available for the unimaginable
- o) outside of the Louvre
 - reference to the building which is the epicentre of colonialism; made famous by Hone Harawira

- p) psychedelic
 - surrealist Schiaparelli unveiled *Le Shocking* in 1936, inventing psychedelic colour
- q) quite good
 - but is that ever enough
- r) rushed
 - a state scorned by Duchamp
- s) sold
 - when artists were court slaves, it was not their work but their talent which was traded on the market
- t) tough to copy if I wanted to
 - originality is easier, which is why it is so often scorned
- u) under water
 - a peculiar aqueous quality of light captured in paintings by Hockney
- v) very very bad or verisimilitudinous
 - core tenet of anti-representationalism
- w) whether dependent
 - the moral storm
- x) xtremely xpensive to make
 - regrets
- y) yellow
 - the metallic yellow of pure gold; above his bare torso, his bright face
- z) zenophobic
 - a paradoxical fear of absurdity; no known sufferer has ever been a great artist

Photographs courtesy of Enjoy and the artist, designed by Alice Baxter