

joe graham: scratch/itch

5 - 26 September 2008 reception 6-8 pm 04 09 08



Centre for Recent Drawing
2 - 4 Highbury Station Rd LONDON N1 1SB
www.c4rd.org.uk +44 (0)20 32396936

Centre for Recent Drawing, Joe Graham, 5 - 26 September 2008

Centre for Recent Drawing presents Joe Graham, an artist who evolves signs through hand drawn lines, demonstrating interplay between a line's form and its possible conceptions. In the relay between eye, thought and the making of marks Graham displays how a rendered line can inform meaning and how in turn meaning can inform a line's direction. His particular drawing approach explores this by degrading images through a process of repetitive drawing and tracing. By tracing an image and then by tracing its tracing a series of images is created. Between tracings he observes how the deteriorated lines lose their prior associations. For a moment they become arbitrary. The paucity of distinction effects the lines' constellation, allowing them to signify alternative meanings. To prohibit the image from perishing completely Graham adds to the traced lines in the direction of their new significance.

In the piece Graham has used as a starting point William Blake's "The Ghost of a Flea" (c1819-1820), one of Blake's 'visions'. These 'visions' have been described as 'eidetic' images, and can be regarded as an example of Blake's knack for lucid recall and dexterous reproduction of his hallucinatory or at least imagined visions. Blake believed his visions were glimpses of eternal and spiritual truths that stood outside the physical world. For him, they were divine gifts with prophetic substance and a continual inspiration to the mythology he developed throughout his life. Such spiritual efforts are not irrelevant in a contemporary artistic context - these works emphasise the subjectivity of vision which Graham's drawing approach furthers.

When re-drawing Blake's "Ghost" Graham gives rein to his own subjective journey by allowing its reference to decay and evolve into alternative forms and meanings. This allows incongruent concepts and erroneous histories to be pulled together then apart, producing a fantastic narrative surfaces through an effort of paper. The image morphs from obscurity to clarity to obscurity again, incident and intention become confused - accidents often becoming content. The compositions are reconfigured as they travel through a chain of being of Graham's own making, enacting a tension between a determining narrative and allowing the line-making its own suggestive path.

Please join us for the opening reception for this exhibition **6 - 8pm 4 September 2008** or during **the exhibition 5 - 26 September 2008. Centre for Recent Drawing is open from 12 - 6pm Wednesday to Friday during exhibition times at 2 - 4 Highbury Station Road, Highbury Islington London. C4RD**, UK Charity 1123530, would particularly like to acknowledge the support for this exhibition of www.artupdate.com.