

ANDREW WEBB

NOT WEBB

23.10.2011 – 03.12.2011

THE WRITING OF THE NAME

“Not Webb” echos the well known and often used quote from A. Rimbaud’s letter to Georges Izambard; “Je est un autre.” “I is someone else.”*

Alarmingly familiar in the vernacular of Southeast England, where the artist has lived and worked since 2008, it refers directly to the transcendent creative process of ‘art making.’

The use of the vacant, empty or discarded garment - shirt, sindon, gandoura - is clearly influenced by Frank Kermode’s speculations on Mark 14: 51/52 in “The Genesis of Secrecy”

and similar imagery in Gnostic texts like ‘The Hymn of the Pearl’ or the ‘Song of the Apostle Judas Thomas.’

A simple image of a shirt, an imprint, an afterimage: a shadow but also a foreshadowing. The symbolism of the garment as a heavenly or ideal double of a person on earth.

Clothes waiting to be filled, there is a sense of absence. (Can you have an empty coat hanger?)

The origins of this can be seen in an earlier work by the artist; “Lily King” shown at the gallery in the exhibition; “Section D’Or: Gilding the Lily” in 2004.

Once again the importance of words (language) is evident throughout this exhibition. ‘Approbatio’ painted in its original typeface taken from a missal printed in 1855;

‘Andy’ the artists family name proposed as a tetragrammaton; ‘Icon’ used in its true meaning, but also punning on ‘I con.’

And the play of words continues; ‘hanger’ hangman, crucifier, stripped/striped, ‘page’ as boy and leaf and ‘leaf’ as page etc.

‘Naked’ obeys the regime of gravity and a ‘7’ is suspended as a reversed image of porosity. Many associations are yet to be formed like names ‘on the tip of ones tongue.

‘Speech’ is silver - it eventually turns to black - while others are ‘Saved.’”

In a beautiful vitrine a golden leaf, perhaps from the sacred tree at Heliopolis, is waiting for Hermes - the god of games of chance - upon which to write the name of the future king.

**Translation; Wallace Fowlie*