

ARCUS

Arcus refers to a bow or curved line (as used in the prefix ARCH: head or chief, or in passage or gateway). Developed with reference to the work of Rodin and Bourgeois, the use of a stretched and arching body infers sensual desire – or madness.

It is made with an *archaeology* of layers (arch here meaning ancient), built up using dripped bitumen, gesso layers, and oil glaze. Cracking, chipping and with underlying text, the arched body is not intended to function as mere illustration or spectacle. Figuration in unstable media (bitumen), the process of body movement to drip and 'throw' the paint onto the canvas, and the layers of text and texture create sensation; an empathy with the body contorted in madness or desire.

In form and aesthetic, potential narratives exist, yet the 'hysterical' contorted body presents new resemblances and functions. Deleuze in his theories of 'Body without organs' posits that every actual body functions as a set of traits, habits, connections, affects, and is 'permeated by unformed, unstable matters, by flows in all directions.....mad or transitory particles moving a various speeds' (A Thousand Plateaus, p.40). This flow - or the process of removing the body from original functions, and bringing about new –or the potential - is a part of Deleuze's significant theory of 'becoming'; the potential of extending aesthetic realms, creating and capturing new forces.

For me creativity and meaning are infinite. The body can be re-written, and re-inscribed. It is a gateway or passage to new thinking, and meaning.