

SIGNIFYING SOMETHING

I love language...words. I use them, enunciate them, make them up, combine them...but it seems I cannot say everything with them. I can use them in painting, and other forms of media, deforming them, layering them, changing their legibility and meaning, yet ultimately they are only part of a visual palette which 'functions metaphorically to express beliefs which cannot always be articulated' (Whitney Chadwick).

I desire to communicate and express ideas – some of which are inexpressible – in the hope that meaning can be re-negotiated. Art changes thinking, creating empathetic inclusivity. I would like people who see my work to be touched in some way, whether by aesthetics, humour, meta-recognition of something personal or emotional. .

I have always believed the role of visual art is to open up [symbolic] spaces in which cultural and social meaning can change. An idealist drop in the ocean - but there are things that we all forget to tell each other, didn't say, didn't feel, took for granted, that can be shared by visual means. More over, as humans we are quick to forget universal values of equality, kindness, understanding and acceptance. I think art, no matter how it is appropriated and branded, still has the ability to remind us of these values, and operates on many different levels- in spite of often being crowded out by institutions, commodity and value systems.

Whilst I am no longer often involved in performances about and using the body, I still work with the idea that the body is a material and representative site at which ideology might be written. I think people can be touched in different ways by different and sometimes surprising media. Making and combining objects, even painting on a flat surface can still 'rupture representational norms', to create 'broader boundaries', and 'upheaval in coherence'. These phrases from Julia Kristeva, inspire me to continue a practice that I hope is 'semiotic transgression' and often full of 'erratic, unpredictable oscillations', but at heart is about people and a restorative action of care.

'Even in [her] failure the [artist] remains all the more the bearer of a collective enunciation'. (Deleuze)