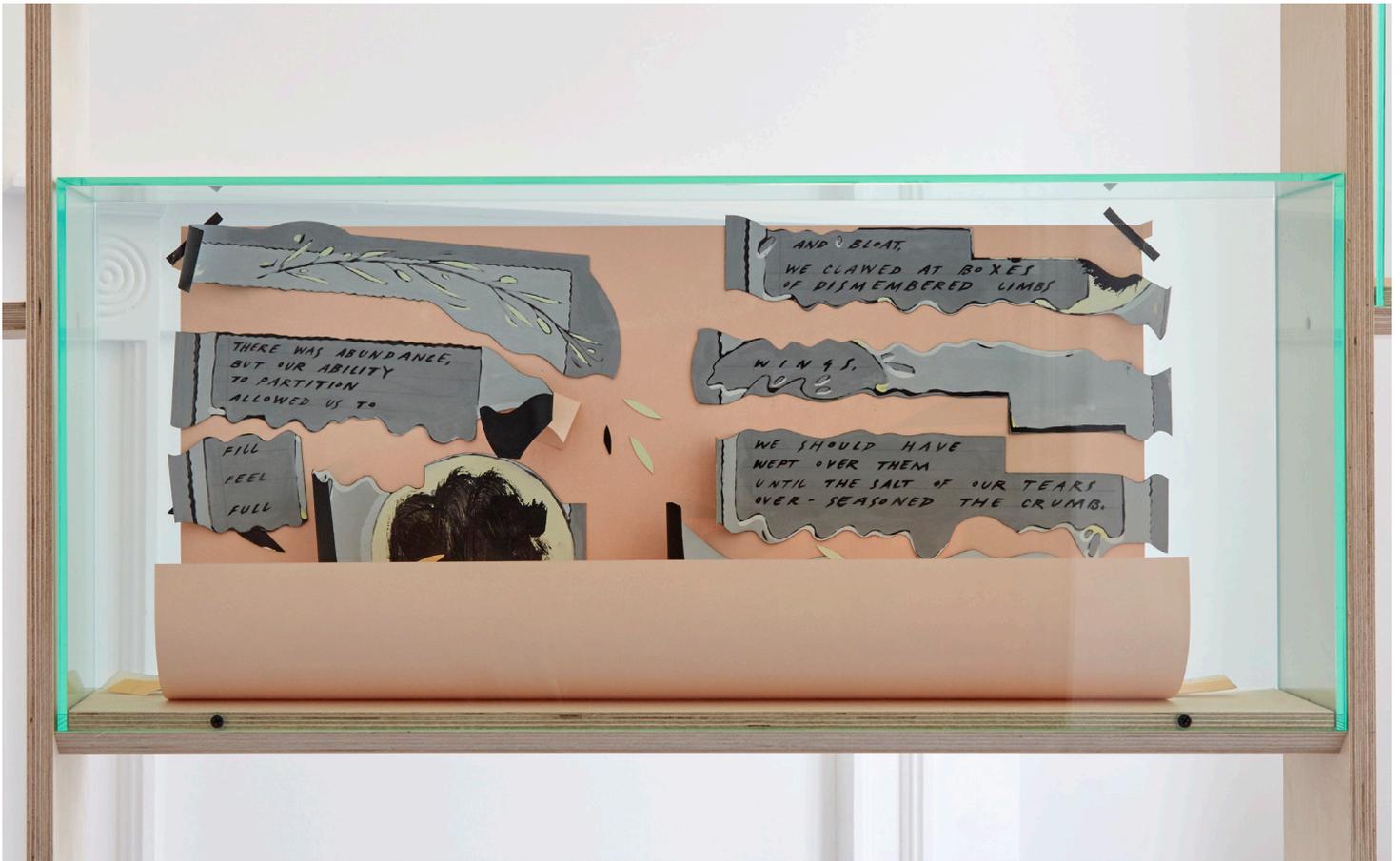


VITRINE



Press Release

Charlie Godet Thomas NON-STOP-SUPER-DE-LUX

2 October 2019 - 2 February 2020.

Preview: Tuesday 2 October 2019, 5 - 8pm.

VITRINE, London. Daily 24/7 from public square.

VITRINE is delighted to announce British/Bermudian artist Charlie Godet Thomas' third solo exhibition with the gallery coinciding with his presentation in Frieze Sculpture 2019.

'NON-STOP-SUPER-DE-LUX' brings together writing, objects and paintings from his series 'Illuminated Manuscripts', in this instance exploring the effects of business and busyness on our sense of tranquillity, control and empathy. Thomas' painted poetic 'Illuminated Manuscripts' which began in 2017, bridge the stylistic qualities of newspaper cartoon strips and a more Blakean approach to pairing writing and imagery.

Taking its title from the pages of Pushwagner's 1969 dystopian graphic novel "Soft City" the works in the exhibition focus on Thomas' interest in revealing alternative, often more sinister dimensions, of the language and imagery of consumerism. In "Verbal Bodies", Matthew Turner's recent essay on Thomas' practice, he notes that, "The materials used to create the works are, to a certain extent, a red herring: the real medium is language, and in particular how language becomes space, it is the space between written and visual language which the artist interrogates." 'NON-STOP-SUPER-DELUX' sees Thomas further asserting this hypothesis.

In recent iterations Thomas' 'Illuminated Manuscripts' have been presented with their own integral light fittings, in part this is a play on the various meanings of "to illuminate", but more importantly, it is also a move towards creating works which breach a more theatrical realm. In 'NON-STOP-SUPER-DELUX' the works are lit by hanging pendulum lights which borrow and celebrate the creative way cut plastic water bottles are used to protect lights from the rain in Mexico City, where Thomas currently resides.

In his sculptures, Thomas' tendency is to strip objects back in the same way he does text, allowing them to play new roles, stated by the artist as a wish to, "liberate them from the constraints of their previous purpose". A series of new sculptural works, including the pendulum lights, will accompany the paintings, placed or hung throughout the space, playing the role of punctuation, conducting the flow of the installations reading.

In his recent work 'Song of Innocence' fragments of painted works are assembled inside a vitrine; pieces of watercolour paper containing broken images and text settle within a void as if falling, the form of the written poems illustrating themselves through their sculptural form and arrangement. Within the confines of VITRINE, Thomas presents a new body of work which scales up, but similarly considers the architectural volume of the glass space.

Alongside Thomas' exhibition at VITRINE, his sculpture for Frieze Sculpture 2019 titled 'Cloud Study (Partner Dance)', also extends from this practice. The work is comprised of two weather vanes which mirror each other in both their design, source imagery and function, pointing in the same direction as the winds shift. The imagery atop the vanes is selected from Thomas' collection of "personal rain clouds", imagery that has often been used in comic strips as a popular means by which to explore the complexities of depression, anxiety and mental health.

Thomas has previously stated that he hopes to "evade the traditional hallmarks of public sculpture: for an imposing quality to be substituted by quietness, heroism by the everyday, stillness by function, sternness by humour and vulnerability in place of grandstanding". Across these concurrent presentations at VITRINE and Frieze, Thomas draws the attention of each viewer, or passerby, to the qualities of movement and stillness, busyness and tranquility, humour and the tragic in his quintessentially poetic manner, across diverse mediums.

Charlie Godet Thomas (b.1985, London. British/Bermudian) currently lives and works in Mexico City. He studied a BA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at Manchester School of Art in 2009 and then an MA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Royal College of Art, London in 2014 where he was awarded the Bermuda Arts Council Scholarship and the Peter Leitner Scholarship. He has been exhibited internationally at galleries, institutions, biennials and fairs, including: BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, UK; Assembly Point, UK; Bermuda Biennial, The Bermuda National Gallery, BM; Ladrón galería, Mexico City, MX; Carillon Gallery, Texas, US; Telfer Gallery, Glasgow, UK; Paradise Works, Manchester, UK; RCA/ ECA Edinburgh Sculpture Court, Edinburgh, UK; Cactus, Liverpool, UK; Poppotions, Brussels, BE; and The Manchester Contemporary, UK. Residencies include: Caribbean Linked IV at Ateliers '89 in Oranjestad, Aruba (2016); Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas, US (2017); and Atelier Mondial, Basel, CH (2017).

For press enquiries, image requests and private view accreditation please contact:

William Clarke

press@vitrinegallery.com

+44 (0) 7896 056400

Notes to Editor

1. The following pages contain a selection of images of past related works and work-in-progress.
High or low res JPEG files available on request.
Installation views of the show will be released on Saturday 28 September 2019.

2.

VITRINE is focused on artistic experimentation and development; material-, process- and installation-led practice at its core.

VITRINE operates a hybrid business model encompassing both commercial gallery and non-profit projects. The gallery was founded by Alys Williams in London in 2012 (grown from a project space launched in 2010) and in Basel in April 2016. Establishing a strong reputation as a selector and nurturer of new talent, VITRINE invites and fosters the development and presentation of new work in spaces in London, UK, and Basel, Switzerland; and through art fairs and satellite projects internationally.

VITRINE's spaces promote a new model of exhibition-making, encouraging experimentation and installation. Whilst enclosed behind glass, the works extend beyond its boundaries into the surrounding public space. Exhibitions viewable 24/7; Internal viewing rooms open by appointment.

List of Images

01. Charlie Godet Thomas, Songs of Experience, 2018.
02. Charlie Godet Thomas, Song of Innocence, 2018.
03. Charlie Godet Thomas, Illuminated Manuscript (Helios), 2018.
04. Charlie Godet Thomas, Lorem Ipsum, 2019.
05. Charlie Godet Thomas, Old Older Cold Colder, 2019.
06. Charlie Godet Thomas, Didi and Gogo, 2019.
07. Charlie Godet Thomas, No Sign of Leaving, 2019.
08. Charlie Godet Thomas, Cloud Study (Partner Dance), artist sketch, 2019. Frieze Sculpture 2019, London.
09. Charlie Godet Thomas, Cloud Study, 2017. Commission for Sculpture At, Bermondsey Square, London.



AND BLOAT,
WE CLAWED AT BOXES
OF DISMEMBERED LIMBS

THERE WAS ABUNDANCE,
BUT OUR ABILITY
TO PARTITION
ALLOWED US TO

WINGS,

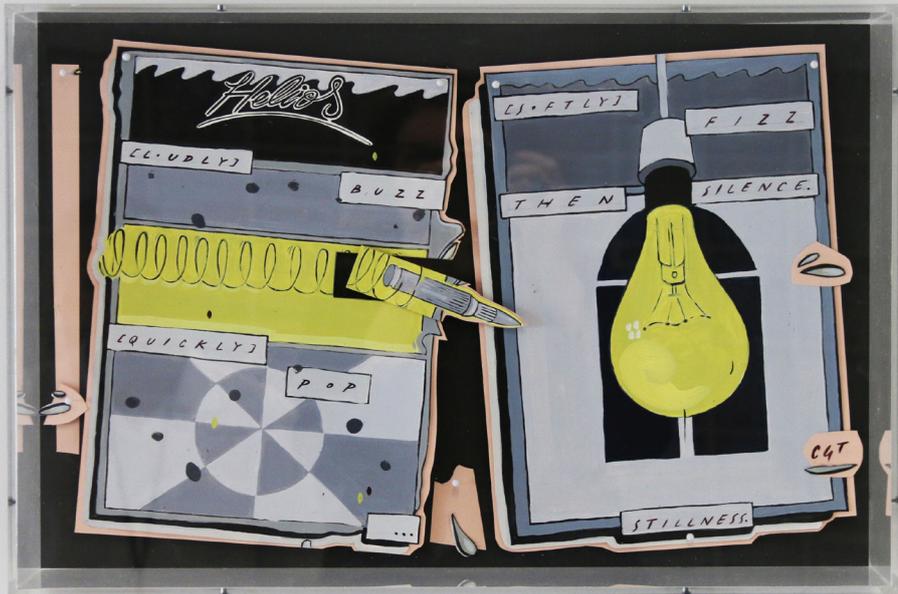
FILL
FEEL
FULL



WE SHOULD HAVE
WEPT OVER THEM
UNTIL THE SALT OF OUR TEARS
OVER-SEASONED THE CRUMBS.







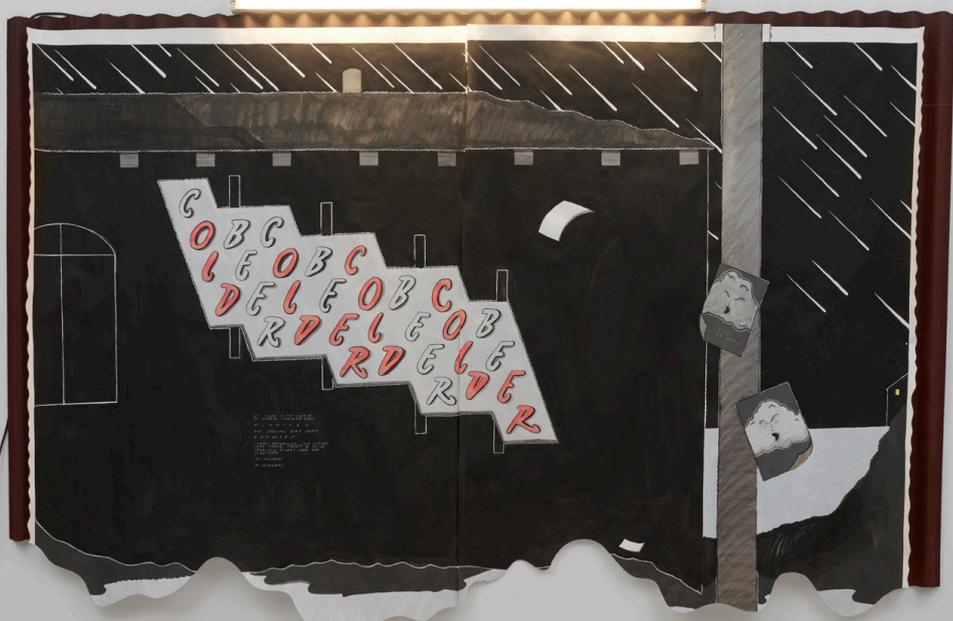


Lesson 40 Sun



THE SUN IS A STAR.
IT IS A GLOBE OF
HOT GASES.
IT IS THE CENTER
OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.













YOU IS
STUCK IN THAT
FO'EVER, LIV'
GRAY CLOUD!!

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