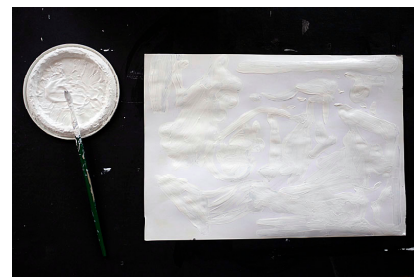


ALBERTO DUMAN

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PROJECT SHEET:

REPRESSIONS

My old drawings, White Primer, Indian Ink. A4 format

'Self-taught artists from homeless, addiction and offending backgrounds have been selected to submit artwork for display at the Stephen Lawrence Gallery...Conceptual artists practicing within a contemporary and highly critical framework will create responses to these artworks, to be incorporated throughout the exhibition.'

Hannah Hull, exhibition curator

I have responded to the exhibition by generating my own 'self-therapeutic' monochrome paintings.

These are 17 years old drawings from my 'expressive, gestural' past, 'repressed' with either black or white paint/ink. The resilience of those old drawings proved to be a challenge, just as the impossibility of forgetting...

Thrown accidentally -even if briefly- against the personal trajectory of these people, I felt reminded of my own addiction, the inescapable seduction of that desire to imagine, re-imagine, getting lost in the process, and start all over again, to shape, to tear, ultimately to change.

As a spectator of that energy, confused, naive, superlative in its own singular tendency to universalize everything, I looked back and reflected on what happens after 20 years of practice to that initial spark and its bloody-mindedness.

I guess it becomes coated in justifications, dented by disappointments, tamed by discourses, educated by history, messed-up by surgical operations, sometimes to the point of disfiguration.

But also it becomes refined through practice, ruthless through negotiations, aware through socializing and wise through failure.

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