

TG

Ryan Christopher
A morsel of curd
November 5th – January 14th 2023

Gallery 1. (Clockwise)

Membrane 5, 2022
Tent groundsheet on stretcher
39 x 30.5 cm

Membrane 4, 2022
Tent groundsheet on stretcher
39 x 30.5 cm

Epigraph, 2022
Medicine cups
4.5 x 20.5 x 4 cm

Redaction, 2022
Vinyl
31.5 x 74 cm

Cylinders, 2022
Button tubes, water
19.5 x 7 x 3.5 cm

Membrane 3, 2022
Tent groundsheet on stretcher
39 x 30.5 cm

Footnotes, 2022
Found foil
Dimensions variable

Gallery 2.

Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Gothenburg, 2022
HD video
5:55

Terse, shifting movements and fragmented narratives form the basis of this exhibition by Amsterdam based artist Ryan Christopher (b.1998, UK). Often diaristic in tone, these narratives function through relations: the silent, tacit communication within and between materials. Christopher presents the video *Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Gothenburg (2022)* with a series of recent sculptures.

Like a contingent choreography of thoughts, the works exist as metaphorical fragments; an accumulation of indexes that point to a physics of the soul.

In the exhibition spaces, the ground sheet of a tent alluding to an absent human body suggests a membrane between an interior and an exterior, at once separated and connected. Water is contained and measured. Foil is disparate: collected on pavements having been sculpted by pedestrians, recording individuals in a state of flux like a series of footnotes.

The title alludes to the life of St. Perpetua (born circa 181, died circa 203)—a Christian Martyr from Carthage (modern day Tunisia), North Africa. Whilst in prison she was given a vision concerning her martyrdom, which

TG

concluded with God giving her a morsel of sheep curd, which she took and ate. She then awoke from her vision at the sound of the word ‘amen’, spoken by all that stood around and a sweet taste was left in her mouth.

Through these movements and narratives intangible states are given form. A material stream-of-consciousness plays out within the exhibition, inviting the viewer to consider relations whilst attuning to the catalysts that move and suspend the human psyche.

sometimes like breathing¹
either/or (enten-eller)²
human beings have always more or less sensed this³

their alternation and succession⁴
you were not beautiful⁵
even from a body that has yet to wake⁶
a force which is like gravity⁷
the concept of Christ’s passion entered into my being⁸
for God is without weight⁹
retain traces¹⁰

Perpetua

Born: 181 AD, Carthage, Tunisia, North Africa

Died: March 7, 203 AD¹¹

The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity is a diary by Vibia Perpetua describing her imprisonment and martyrdom as a Christian in 203, completed after her death by a redactor. It is one of the oldest early Christian texts.

‘For a few days afterwards I gave thanks to the Lord that I was separated from my father, and I was comforted by his absence. During these few days I was baptised, and I was inspired by the Spirit not to ask for any other favour after the water but simply the perseverance of the flesh. A few days later we were taken into prison, and I was much afraid because I had never known such darkness.’¹²

‘this was the vision I had:’

‘And I went up, and I saw a very great space of garden, and in the midst was God, sitting, milking sheep; and standing around in white were many thousands. And he raised his head and beheld me and said to me: Welcome, my child. And he cried to me, and from the curd he had from the milk he gave me as it were a morsel; and I took it with joined hands and ate it up; and all that stood around said, Amen. And at the sound of that word I awoke, yet eating I know not what of sweet.’

¹Kierkegaard, S., 1989. *The Sickness unto Death*. London: Penguin Books.

²Kierkegaard, S. and Hannay, A., 2004. *Either/or*. London: Penguin Books.

³Weil, S., Thibon, G., Crawford, E. and Von der Ruhr, M., 2003. *Gravity and grace*. London: Taylor & Francis

⁴Arendt, H., 1996. *Love and Saint Augustine*. The University of Chicago Press.

⁵Saint Augustine, 2009. *The Confessions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

⁶Kwei Armah, A., 2022. *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. Harlow: Heinemann.

⁷Weil, S., Thibon, G., Crawford, E. and Von der Ruhr, M., 2003. *Gravity and grace*. London: Taylor & Francis

⁸Weil, S., 1951. *Waiting for God*. London: Routledge & K. Paul.

⁹Kierkegaard, S., 2010. *Spiritual Writings : A New Translation and Selection*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

¹⁰Césaire, S. and Maximin, D., 2012. *The great camouflage*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press.

¹¹Encyclopedia Britannica. 2022. *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity | Latin hagiography*.

¹²Augustine and Shewring, W., 1931. *The Passion of SS. Perpetua and Felicity*, MM. London: Sheed and Ward