

PALAS[®]

Nick Collerson, The Tail, 28th June – 23rd August 2025

The Tail marks Nick Collerson's second exhibition at PALAS, bringing together a series of paintings that offer symbolism not as a code to crack, but as a living, shifting language.

In these works, nothing holds for long. A body becomes a shape, a shape slips into light; figures recede as colour, space, or architecture takes their place. Perspectives tilt and loosen, and with them, meaning is deferred, contradicted, and made open.

Collerson paints with a candour that feels both disarming yet precise – guided by a deep trust in the act of painting itself. What unfolds is the quiet complexity of what is at play: a philosophical, ancient game into how we chase images, words and

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ΠΡΟΚΛΟΥΣ ΔΙΑΔΟΧΟΥ

From Proclus of the successor (412 – 17 April 485 CE)

ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΩΣΙΣ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ.

Theological Magic-Teaching

Verse 210.

The Universe/God Pan (Πᾶν) is the raft of the psyche (ψυχῆς) naturally growing in unity and is always the same shape and he possesses/by a viper [ῥυν, ἔχει] magnitude, but also the littler elder is seeing himself and is of unlike form and from other bodies prosthetically attached and being taken away.

If this immutable reality is truly by a viper (ἔχει) coming from an immovable cause, it is clear to the mind/Apollo/sun [ῥυν, δῆλον] now because he has marked himself out as the boundary of the cause side by side to the Self as this form and this magnitude, and he is each of two that are unchangeable and not-changeable.

Yet the crescent sickle moon (μῆν) is making itself visible to the eye at another time of another sort and is the elder authority and the lesser youth.

Then and there he is bringing himself to light in a line right through other bodies sprung from the wood working materials from simple sounds of speech that are prosthetically joining themselves and taking themselves away in turn such as this or such as this and so many or so long.

Πᾶν ψυχῆς ὄχημα συμφυὲς καὶ
σχῆμα τὸ αὐτὸ αἰεὶ καὶ μέγεθος ἔχει,
μείζον δὲ καὶ ἔλαττον ὁρᾶται καὶ
ἀνομοιόσχημον ὃ ἄλλων σωμάτων
προσθέσεις καὶ ἀφαιρέσεις.

εἰ γὰρ ἐξ αἰτίας ἀκινήτου τὴν οὐσίαν ἔχει,
δῆλον δὴ ὅτι καὶ τὸ σχῆμα καὶ τὸ μέγεθος
αὐτῷ παρὰ τῆς αἰτίας ἀφώρισται,

καὶ ἔστιν ἀμετάβλητον καὶ ἀνεξάλλακτον ἐκάτερον.
ἀλλὰ μὴν ἄλλοτε ἄλλοιον φαντάζεται καὶ μείζον καὶ ἔλαττον.
δι' ἄλλα ἅρα σώματα ἀπὸ τῶν ὑλικῶν στοιχείων
προστιθέμενα καὶ αὖθις ἀφαιρούμενα
τοιόνδε ἢ τοιόνδε καὶ τοσόνδε ἢ τοσόνδε φαίνεται.

- Translation by Nick Collerson, June 2025