



the artlab paris edition update



'le penseur' a paper based artwork glued to a wall near the place i currently live.

'the damned', a sculpture by liza lou covered in small golden coloured glass beads.

two invitations for reflection by the contrast these works display.

and these are all the words i will dedicate to these images. i do not want to spill the goods.

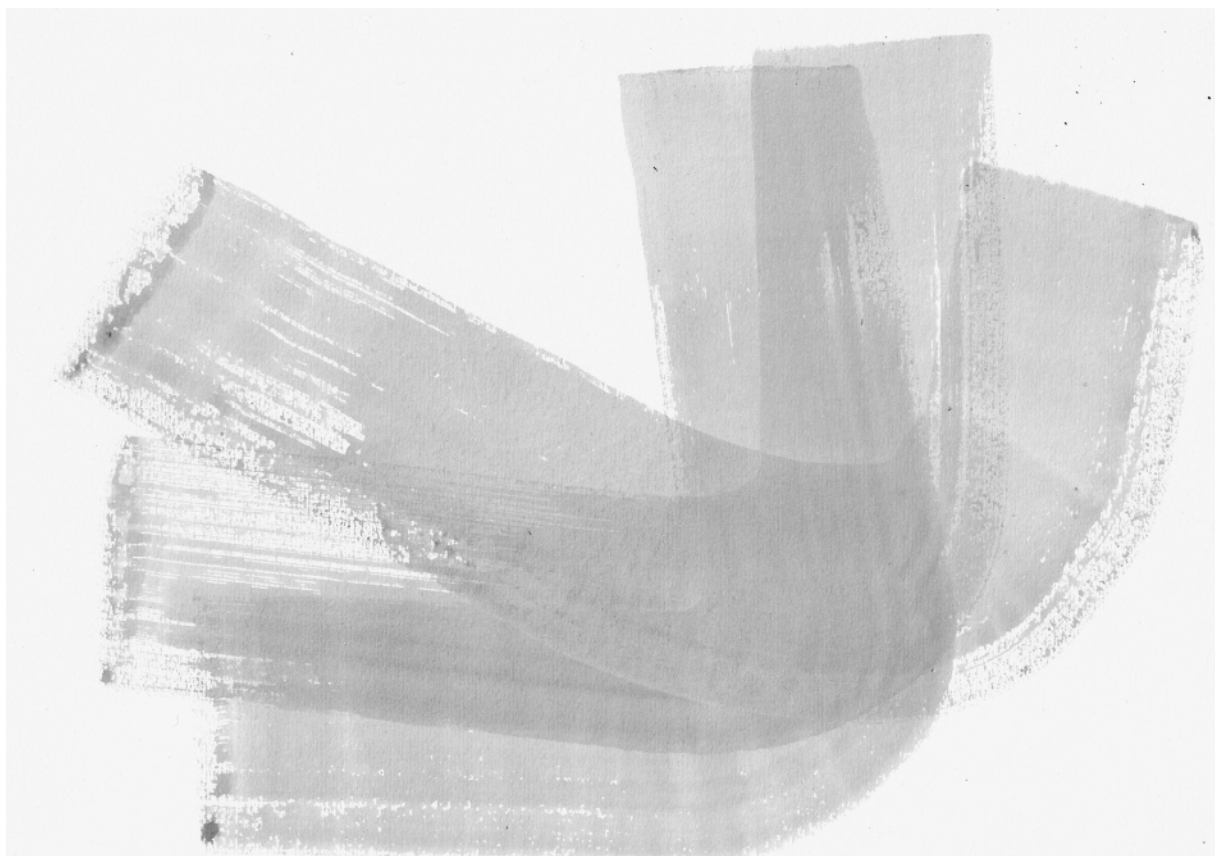
(although some people will never get enough information to get it. all words fail when the mind stays closed, to say nothing about the heart.)



the work of the paris edition of the artlab  
continues, although the regular visits to the art  
galleries have to be suspended.  
not to worry, i will survive.  
a new eye will emerge while the one i was used  
to and relied on is temporarily rather blindfolded.

just like the recent works opened new avenues to  
look at the social contract.

**the core is the idea  
that the social contract can be seen as  
patterns of traces of human actions.**



what is the social contract?

so far i have tried to envision it as a conceptual, yet tangible object that somehow influences the behaviour of the people who adhere to the contract. a material abstraction that guides people's feelings, position and actions.

but instead of looking at the social contract as an object, i started to focus on the outcomes of the social contract, the imprints it makes through the actions of people. and while actions are somehow ephemeral, they in themselves do not last, it is the traces that these actions leave behind which make them noticeable and tangible.

the material traces.

the traces in the environment.

the traces in our social spaces.

the traces in our memory and capabilities.

traces which form patterns.

the drawings deal with these patterns of traces.

in that sense the patterns are the social contract. they mark the right behaviour that is to be copied and which reinforces these patterns through the traces it imprints.

these drawings may evoke a dialogue on what kind of patterns we aim for. what are the collective traces we want to leave behind as an organisation?

hopefully in the recognition that real life creates layered pictures and that the most interesting images incorporate distortion and tension. that is where artspower can be found.

