



This exorcism was declaimed, with help from the audience, during the opening of the exhibition *Affect Bridge Age Regression* at Cubitt Gallery, London, on the evening of 3 June, 2017. The title refers to a technique used in hypnotherapy to associate recurrent bodily feelings back to an original memory: once brought back, the recollection can be vivified—in theory at least. The installation at Cubitt comprised a large model bridge, a series of related posters (including the one on the last page of this Bulletin), and a recording of the present text set to music, all bathed in the diffuse yellow of the same sodium streetlamps used to light British streets a generation or so ago.

It all amounts to an exploration of Leckey's childhood memory of a motorway bridge/underpass that has become a haunting presence in his recent work. This "hungry ghost standing at the very end of the 20th century" still exists on the outskirts of Birkenhead close to where Leckey grew up on the Wirral Peninsula west of Liverpool. He describes the bridge as nostalgically attached to him—"like an out-of-sight body part or a chimera's mutated limb acting as a conduit for memory, technology, and somatic effect." The exorcism is an attempt to get it out of his system for good.

Given that a full glossary of the exorcism's references would run longer than the exorcism itself, we point you instead to the nearest search engine.

Cover: The model of the bridge in question at Cubitt. With thanks to Cubitt Artists.

In the name of Gog and Magog and the weird sisters of Albion

In the name of Jack of the Green, Robin Goodfellow and the Transport
and General Workers Union

In the name of Minerva, Hermes, Mercury, Vahana

I call upon the Astra, the Vectra, the Viva

In the name of the New Brutalism and the Geometry of Fear

In the name of Barbara Castle, Clement Atlee, and Nye Bevan

In the name of the Ancient Greek Kubernetes

In the name of the Fairy Feller's Master Stroke and the Elimination of
a Picture and its Subject

In the name of The Levellers, The Diggers, and the Navvies of the M53

In the name of Reclaim the Streets and the Tothill Sitters

In all these names, in all the names, I call upon their powers to start
a Sympathetic Vibration

and Cast Out, Call Out

Out

Out Demons Out

All those Bad Vibrations

All the Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts that linger 'n' cling

Out, Magic

Out, Morbidity

Oh, Magic Power of Bleakness

Out, Indwelling Spirit, Numen of the North West

Stagnant Entity of Dank Decades

Out, this Hollow Resonance, Void of Holy Immanence

Reliquary of the 20th century

Embalmed in Lucozade

Out, all the vestiges, this Vestigial Growth, this Prosthetic Limb

(amputated-transitional-structure)

Out, Lurker, Skulker, lying in wait

for something smaller.

Out, bleak spot

(this is a bad place after all)

Brutal

Out, Visceral Memories

Recorded at a Cellular Level

Out, this Nostalgic Condition, Necropolis of My Mind

Out, Deceiver, Beguiler, Seducer, Sham!

(panto-bridge)

Out, Convincing Imitator of Bridge-Like Characteristics

Trap!

Out, this Part standing in for a Whole which I frot myself against

Shrunken-Headed Fetish Doll

(mini-me, half-pint, bridge-a-like, wannabe)

Out, the stain of shame

Shame, shame, shame

Breakout of this Baleful Circuit

Out, High-Functioning Fan-Boy, great attention to detail

Out Realism Out

Out, Accumulated Soundwaves that Reverberate throughout Time

(50,000,000 hours of audio-recordings, and growing)

Extremely Low Frequencies that Oscillate

Below-the-Bridge

Listen

Below-the-Bridge

(I used to be under the bridge ... but now I can cross over)

Elf Pressure, Hob, Hob-Goblin

Aus Alpdruck auf der Brücke

Out, Metaphor made Concrete Instance

(No, concrete instance made metaphor)

Out, being ridden by this Bridge

Over and Over and Over and Over and Over and Over and Over

Out, Infantilized Giant of Yesteryear

HardcoreBridgePorn

Funerary Figure

Cybernetic Ruin

Time Stretched, Pitch Bent, Obstacle to New Jerusalem

Come Out

Out from the shadows

The Occluded, the Recondite, the Arcane, Alembicated

Out, Out of My Mind, Into this Room, Under the Bridge

Out

Out

Working-Class Sentimental Knick-Knack

Memory Palace of the Underclasses

UK Scally Lads in Cum-Stained Tracksuits

Out, this Dead Load

SLAB BLOCK LUMP CHUNK

Out, Hungry Ghost that keeps feeding, that keeps feeding and feeding
and feeding

Drive you Out

Demons

Out, into a Herd of Pigs

Out, all the Dead Souls, All of Northern Soul

N-N-N-N-Nineteen Eighties

(Seventies, Sixties, Nineties)

Y2K

Out, Millennium Bug (still haven't got over you)

Out, Tetra-Ethyl Lead Petrol

Your taste still in my mouth like blood.

Out

Ultrastatic, Traversable, Topological Wormhole.

*



Thursday, August 12, 1999

30p

THOUGHT: AND THE MOON

