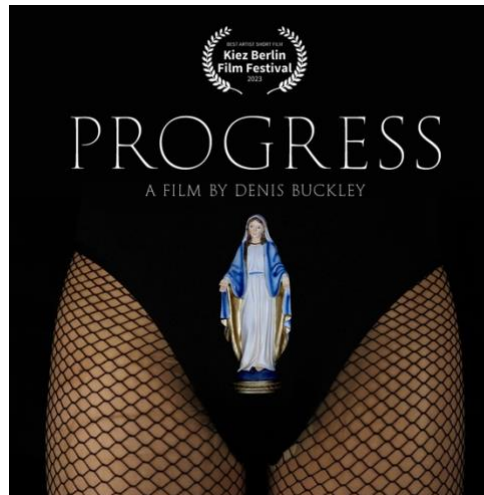


Progress 2024
Denis Buckley



Progress Film Poster, Image: Artist,
Performer: Carrot, Layout: Sha Griffin

"Fear of the wound is the legacy violence follows on. The shame a punishment to women perceived to have removed that what which didn't exist in the first place, surplus shame a desire to be shamed and punished for an act that deserves condemnation, in Whitegate, Schull or on White Strand, fear of the wound makes men accomplice, small acts inexorably compounded by repetition until cruelty is no longer ashamed by its unknown desire be found out". Progress 2022

Progress Film is a single channel HD moving image work. Initially influenced by my reading of Joyce's Ulysses at the differing ages of the two male protagonists, Bloom and Stephen, the 37min film premiered online at The Rio Cinema London on 02/02/2022, the centenary of the publication of the novel. The film won Best Artist Film at the Kiez Berlin Film Festival 2023 and was in Official Selection at Boden International Film Festival and Stockholm City Film Festival same year.

The initial premise subsequently uncovered a theme of male anxiety and fear, manifesting in patriarchal violence and, in an Irish context, collusion. As a product of an indoctrinated education, the perniciousness of which was uncovered in psychoanalysis, I reveal deep rooted and largely unconscious fears men, from similar background and experience have, in relation to women. The iconography of said education, (particularly in the relationship between Virgin/Christ, Mother/Son), is experientially explored so the failure of patriarchal State bodies to properly investigate and conclude 3 separate incidents of violence toward women in Ireland from 1984 onward could only be comprehended by psychoanalytic theory.

I left Ireland in 1985 during the Joanne Haynes vilification and following 2 failed attempts to change the Irish constitution on matters of abortion and divorce.

"All striving coming from a void, ideology wrapped around repetition of image bears the burden of existence with ecstatic, defunct speech, power making powerless perusing a desperate, violent search for the thing presumed first lost". Progress 2022

In devising the script for Progress Film, I drew on 6 life experiences whereby I suddenly awakened. Making no differential between a coming too after excess and a profound spiritual/political realisation, the question of awakening is purified of pretensions to a superiority of knowledge, merely a recognition of the need to change. The suggestion is that sound political agitation occurs only when the subject has detached libidinal investment in any outcomes from their action.

The locations and ages documented vary but all were within a period between from being an art student in 1980's Limerick and entering Lacanian psychoanalysis in London some 20 years later. The series, the presence of the subject, (always in black great coat), and the progressive trajectory, echoes Hogarth's series of a Rake's decline and fall in Sir John Soane's Museum London.

Original sketches were first blown up to a size of 900mm x 600mm thereafter after painted on panel to a similar ratio albeit almost 2 times bigger.



Waking in The London Marathon, Acrylic on Panel, 1605mm x 1070mm, 2023.



Waking in A Georgian Doorway, Acrylic on Panel, 1605mm x 1070mm, 2023.

"No more mean poets making up women, no more bare chested painters fighting in bars". Progress 2022

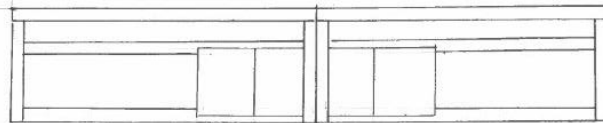
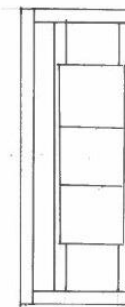
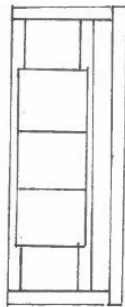
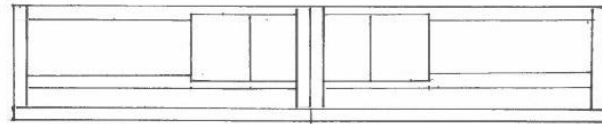


Progress Painting Side Wall Elevation, H: 2200mm, W: 3660mm, D: 600mm

The panels combined make up Progress Painting. Shown with Progress film but enclosed for concentration, this is a four sided structure showing all 6 panels in sequence. The works are built into 4 free standing frames held up and ballasted at base by beer barrels. Each frame, consisting of 2 panels, is 2.2m high and 3.66m wide, each frame with 1 panel is 2.2m high and 1.83m wide. The structure is accessible all corners and lit strongly in contrast to outside, which is dark to accommodate moving image.

The back of the frames shows the timber studwork of the frame structure and painted panels. The series acts as a non narrative story board relating to the moving image.

"I dream a dark Roseleen not yet seen for whom all this will seem reason enough for not being any part of it".
Progress 2022



Progress Painting 4 Wall with Entrances Plan, 4740mm x 4470mm

The panels combined make up the free standing structure for Progress Painting.