

A Game of JUG

Dr Conor Wilson

Process

1. Invited to contribute to *Pour Me*, a show of jugs at Devon Guild of Craftsmen.
2. Explores etymology of the word 'jug', which proves to be unusually indistinct.
3. Produces 'JUG' concrete poem in Adobe Illustrator.
4. Rereads Heidegger's *The Thing*.
5. Thinking about the void that makes the jug – can the void be present without the walls? How can the volume of the jug be made present?
6. Rather than designing and making a new jug, decides to work within the limit of an existing jug.
7. Searching online, finds a Prinknash Abbey stoneware jug. It is not a particularly great example of a jug, but seems about the right size and the connection to concrete poet, Dom Sylvester Houédard, who lived and worked at the abbey as a Benedictine monk, is irresistible.
8. It transpires that the jug holds one litre of liquid.
9. Plans to make a copy of this jug.
10. Discovers *The Handle*, essay by Georg Simmel.
11. Takes photographs of Prinknash jug being poured.
12. Makes two 'hand holding jug' drawings using Photoshop and Illustrator.
13. One litre is equal to 1000 ml, which occupies a volume of one thousand cubic centimetres, which is equal to a 10 x 10 x 10 cm box.
14. Draws a 10cm³ box that is intended to 'look right', but without reference to an existing object.
15. Buys two 1000 ml Perspex measuring boxes.
16. Makes series of photographs of empty boxes with shadows.
17. Wanting to deepen the play between two and three dimensions, digital and analogue, decides to produce a series of collages.
18. Attracted by the quality of printed black in the backgrounds of old images of classical sculptures, buys *Sculpture Grecque* and *The Louvre: Sculpture, Ceramics, Objets D'Art* in local second-hand bookshop.
19. Scans and cuts 10cm³ box drawing and uses as template to cut cubes out of selected pages of *The Louvre* book.
20. Cuts sculptures from selected pages of *Sculpture Grecque* book.
21. Double images scanned and two digital collage series are started. Each uses a play between volume and flatness / light and dark / figure-ground ambiguity, but also follows the nose of process.
22. Purchase of *ceolfrieth 15*, with an essay by Dom Sylvester Houédard: 'me as poet rather than critic-written for may 1964 ica bulletin but not included':

'my poetry examines interplay of god and non-god-image-of-god –
concept as image (nadanada & netineti): cosmos as image: micro &
macro cosmos as image'

23. Starts working with the word nadanada, which becomes nadadanada. Series of visual poems and walking poems produced. nadadanada introduced to digital collage series, to produce image-texts, using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign.
24. Takes photographs of Prinknash jug and uses Photoshop Pen Tool to draw outline, which is incorporated in digital collage series.
25. Makes silicone mould of Prinknash jug.
26. Makes plaster model from silicone mould.
27. Makes plaster mould of jug from plaster model.
28. Presses solid clay jug from plaster mould.
29. Hollows out solid clay jug.
30. While hollowing, presses clay into 1000 ml Perspex box (sides lined with acetate squares), until exactly 1000 cm³ has been removed from jug and added to box.
31. Removes clay cube from box and removes acetate squares from cube.
32. After allowing to dry a little, laser etches 'hand holding jug' drawings onto two sides of clay cube.
33. Puts etched clay cube into clean 1000 ml Perspex box.
34. Biscuit fires hollowed clay jug.
35. Retypes Heidegger's *The Thing*.
36. Retypes the essay into a set of 10 x 10 cm square text boxes, laid on top of each other, once in Photoshop and once in InDesign.
37. Selection of collages and photographs resized for MediaWall.

Text and image sources:

Georg Simmel, 'The Handle' in *Georg Simmel, 1858-1918: A Collection of Essays*, ed. by Kurt H. Wolff (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1959) (first published in 1911).

Martin Heidegger, 'The Thing' in *Poetry, Language, Thought*, trans. by Albert Hofstadter (New York: Harper & Row, 1971) (first delivered as a lecture in 1950).

Dom Sylvester Houédard, 'me as poet rather than critic : written for may 1964 ica bulletin but not included' in *ceolfrith 15: dom sylvester houédard*, ed. by Charles Verey (Sunderland: Ceolfrith Arts Centre, 1972), p. 50.

Jean Charbonneaux, *Sculpture Grecque* (Paris: Les Editions Braun & C^{ie}, date unknown).

Maximilien Gauthier, *The Louvre: Sculpture, Ceramics, Objets D'Art* (London: Oldbourne Press, 1962).