

# KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013



**On Michael Berryhill's "Sensitive Parlour Ghost" Incidental Western  
Phong Bui  
September 3, 2012**

Possessed by certain homeostatic eccentricities,  
She prefers to avoid definite lines that  
Trace the body, especially in sunlight.

Caught being here in near complete spiritual elevation  
And there with ambivalent feelings of orgiastic ecstasy  
The image trembles much faster than the erosion of time,  
As if it was intentionally made to resemble a palimpsest of  
Rectified anatomy through Propertius's memories.

Like Gorky's and de Kooning's frequent visits to Boscotrecase's wall paintings  
At the Metropolitan Museum  
Melancholy outweighs glimpses of happiness.

"I habituated myself,"  
Once wrote Rimbaud,  
"To simple hallucination:  
I very sincerely saw a mosque instead of a factory...  
I ended up considering the disorder of my mind sacred."

Accordo. Accordo.  
Absolument. Absolument.  
It's impossible to integrate the inner world as an outer image.

What is it like to also love the differences between Greek tunics and Roman togas  
And yet learn to be indifferent to them  
Simultaneously?  
Masson must have contended with Heraclitus's fire that harbingered  
The modern notion of the uniformity of natural law!

Buon lavoro. Buon lavoro.  
Complimenti. Complimenti.  
Allow me a few more minutes to digest.

Never mind Pound's *Homage to Sextus Propertius*  
What about Katz's 2005 translation of his complete elegies?  
Cynthia was never in Michael Berryhill's painting  
It's Cornelia's ghost rising from the funeral pyre  
Declaring a virtual justification of her entire life.

Schwarmerei. Schwarmerei.  
Avanti. Avanti.  
It's impossible to integrate the outer image as an inner world.

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Michael Berryhill,  
"Sensitive Parlour  
Ghost," 2012. Oil on  
linen. 30 × 24".  
Courtesy of the artist  
and Kansas Gallery.