

Abraham David Christian -
Richard Milazzo

One Thing at a Time
April 28 - June 10, 2017

press release

Galerie Albrecht is proud to present the exhibition:

One Thing at a Time: Drawings and Sculptures by Abraham David Christian, curated by Richard Milazzo.

The gallery is also proud to publish on this occasion the book by Richard Milazzo: *One Thing at a Time*:

Poems of Japan, 2016, with the suite of 30 drawings (三十 [san jû]) made by Abraham David Christian in Japan for the book and presented in the exhibition. Signed copies by the author and the artist will be available at the gallery for 20€.

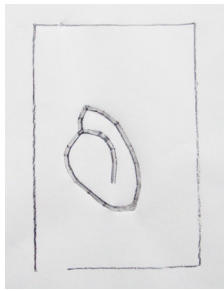
In the Preface of the book, Richard Milazzo writes:

“Most of the poems (excepting two) in *One Thing at a Time* were written during a recent trip to Japan, in February and March of 2016. In the poems about Hiroshima, I felt sure indirection was the only possible approach. The hope is that the sincerity of my intentions will carry me and that no part of my life-long-shock will be misconstrued. (In my own addled brain, one of the sculptures even reminded me, in the context of this presentation, of that fateful day in August 1945. I will not tell you which sculpture. I am sure Abraham David Christian would be horrified by this association, and consider it entirely irrelevant.) As for the rest, we can clearly see at work here (in these poems) history rooted in the most visceral of ontological predications, where it is not simply symptomatic of an erotics of retrospection. When this author gazes up at the burgeoning fruition of the plum or cherry blossom tree, he sees only an overwhelming population, a fleeting consort and delicate conceit, of erotic thresholds. Clearly, he is dizzy with the pollen of existential spring, even as the thought of everlasting devastation and winter can never leave him, both by nature and circumstance. The ‘blossom’ here is simultaneously jejune and apocalyptic.

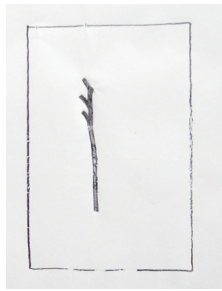
“In its simplicity and sincerity, the title (which I borrowed from the artist), *One Thing at a Time*, and, by implication, the book, wants to describe experiences that I imagine were not dissimilar to those of the great seventeenth-century Edo period poet, Matsuo Basho, when it is said, perhaps somewhat apocryphally, he lived in a small house or hut in the northeastern hills of Kyoto Prefecture. Because this title (and the concept behind it) embodied the spirit of his work as an artist, I invited Abraham David Christian, who has, for as long as I can remember, lived part of the year in Japan, as well Dusseldorf and New York City, to do the abstract or analogical drawings, some even exquisitely and daringly illustrative, for this book of poems. Although I have never visited David’s small cottage in Hayama, pictures of it are evocative of Thoreau’s cabin on Walden Pond, and Basho’s modest dwelling (Basho-an) in the northeast hills of Kyoto.

“In the course of preparing the exhibition, the publisher-gallerist, Susanne Albrecht, in Berlin, wrote: ‘There is a vivid relationship between the drawings and the poems. The drawings could be images that reflect the meaning of the poems and they could be read as characters of an archaic language, thus giving the poetry the atmosphere of an oracle, of words and wisdom from a very old time. Now you have not only time, but also space in the book’.

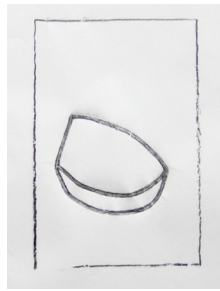
In this world of Pop culture, where the American ethos has unfortunately become a global reality, it was not that I wasn’t tempted to use as the book’s title, *Apocalypse and Love* or *Girls Giggling Beneath the A-Bomb Dome*. The former, because it made an ever so subtle allusion to Alain Resnais’s great film, *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959); the latter, to distance myself, in a Brechtian manner, from a topic still too painful to address directly – the former (title) obviously being ultimately too facetious and lacking sufficient gravitas, at least for me. The common idiom, ‘One Thing at a Time’, on the other hand, while facile to an extreme, catches at something that goes against the very grain of our Age of multi-tasking and social media. In the end, for me, it captures the ‘space between our thoughts’; it is about slowing things down long enough to actually experience them, if only in parts or as a partial reality.”



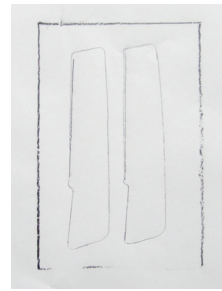
1 No Before, No After



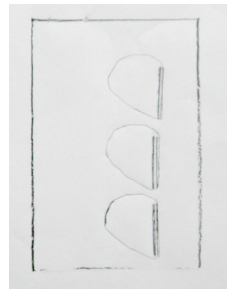
2 Candle Wax to Ash



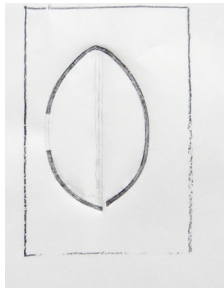
3 Tsukiji Fish Market



4 The Girl in a Blue Robe



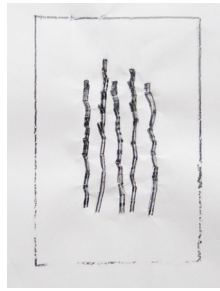
5 Pachinko Parlor



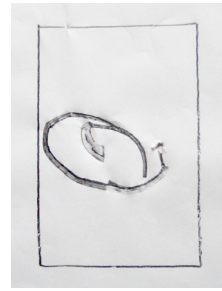
6 Hama Detached
Palace Garden



7 The Lady of
Kagurazaka



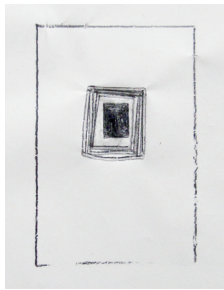
8 Upon Visiting the
Bamboo Garden



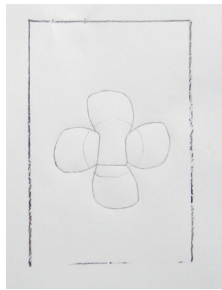
9 The Teahouse at
Jomyoji Temple



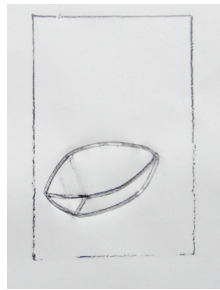
10 The Cherry Blossoms
at Yanaka Cemetery



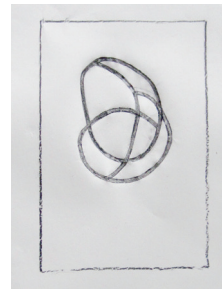
11 Kawagoe



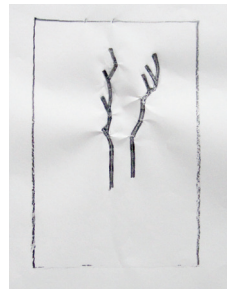
12 Hasedera Temple



13 Sea of Japan



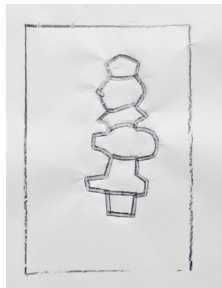
14 Tsukuda Island



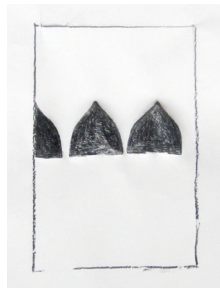
15 A Stroll in the Imperial
Gardens



16 Shimabara



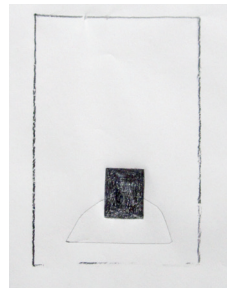
17 Postcard from To-ji



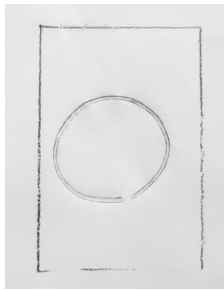
18 Ginkaku-ji
(The Silver Pavilion)



19 Renge-ji



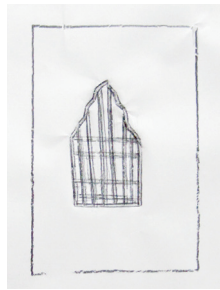
20 Basho-an



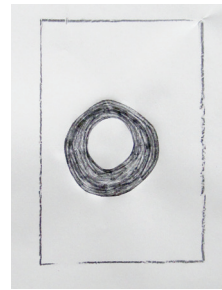
21 The Philosopher's
Path



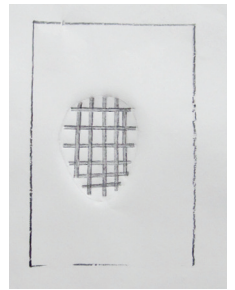
22 Kamo River



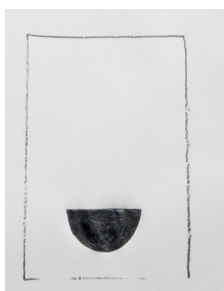
23 Kinkaku



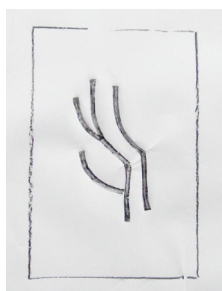
24 Ryoan-ji



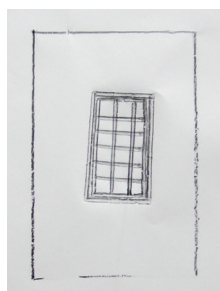
25 Todai-ji



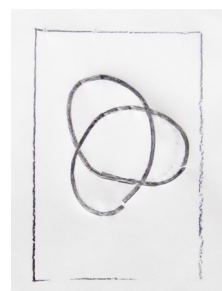
26 Isuien Garden



27 Gango-ji



28 Zarathustra's
Lantern



29 Einstein's Piano



30 Apocalyptic Love