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Drawing with prose

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Drawn In2♥!

An Allegory for Three Players

Phil Sawdon (2002)

*For
Hector
Affection and Admiration*

The Players

Monsieur Lièvre, a well-dressed monkey
Madame Pipe, a mouse, *several years younger*
A woman (allegedly Bernice Rose)

Monsieur Lièvre and Madame Pipe speak French when spoken to, 'like a tourist French.'
(Underworld, 2002)
All character directions in *italic* are to be found in A Delicate Balance a play by Edward Albee
(Penguin Books Ltd 1969).

The Scene

A white walled gallery space with a tree and a table. The time is *Now*.
'Le singe est sur la branche and la souris est sous la table' (Izzard, 1998)
A woman (allegedly Bernice Rose) sits 'in a box with her head in her box'. (Underworld,
2002)

Madame Pipe: [leafing an exhibition catalogue, *quite innocent, almost childlike*.]: 'Do you tell stories through drawing'? (*TRACEY*, 2003)

Monsieur Lièvre [*after a small silence*]: Oui, sometimes

Madame Pipe [*wistful, some loss*]: "There was a little drawing of a heart [*pointing*] ... next to that ... followed by an exclamation mark" '. (Underworld, 2002)

Monsieur Lièvre [*a little patronising and a tiny condescending laugh*]: Can you draw it?

Madame Pipe [*confused*]: Draw what?

Monsieur Lièvre: [*tight smile*]: 'A "little drawing of a heart ... followed by an exclamation mark".'

Madame Pipe: [*cheerful laugh*]: Non, don't be silly. I'm a mouse.

Monsieur Lièvre: [*gently, to a child*]: Did you find it?

Madame Pipe: What?

Monsieur Lièvre [*firm*]: The 'little drawing of a heart ... followed by an exclamation mark' ♥!

Madame Pipe [*dropping sugar in a cup*]: I found it as you put it when I was looking at a drawing. Brush, pen and ink, coloured pencil brushed with water on paper, probably Jackson Pollock, I'd guess at probably *Untitled*, 1943.

Monsieur Lièvre [*pouring vodka into a glass*]: That will be the one that's Inscribed, 'The effort of the dance/the city with horns/ the thickness of white'. (Rose, 1979)

Madame Pipe [*a little apologetic, confused as to where she is*]: 'There was a little drawing of a heart next to that, followed by an exclamation mark. The back ... was covered in stuff ... stuff like: Brandon is not a very nice guy, but Alex is soooo nice. And that had the exclamation thing too. It was just silly crap that hit the spot. And he let himself be drawn in.' (Underworld, 2002)

Allegedly Bernice Rose [*from inside the box, not explaining, and to none of them, really*]: 'As in Surrealist picture-poems, the writing, a link between poetry and image, extends itself into drawing.' (Rose, 1979)

Madame Pipe [*knowing nodding of the head*]: Hmm, drawing research.

Allegedly Bernice Rose [*Maybe slightly on the defensive, but more ... vague*]: 'The importance of Pollock's discovery of automatic drawing cannot be overstressed; automatic drawing released the images in his psyche to his hand, it then enabled his hand to free him from the dependence on those images'. (Rose, 1979)

Monsieur Lièvre [*judges the situation for a moment*]: 'How does narrative work in drawing? Does it depend on representation, or are there 'abstract narratives' as well'? (TRACEY, 2003)

The little drawing of a heart did it have any Jungian magic numbers ... a 4 or maybe a 6?

Allegedly Bernice Rose [*on her feet, moving*]: 'The appearance of the Jungian magic numbers 4 and 6 appear here, as in many drawings of the period; the 4 an allusion to the four-part Jungian life cycle universalises the apparent intimacy of the drawing, clarifying its symbols and centrifugal movement, while increasing its allegorical complexity. The 6 refers to the fusion of male and female ... a narrative scene of the painter's more private fantasies'. (Rose, 1979)

Madame Pipe [*as if the opposite answer was expected from her*]: It's a song lyric. Track 2, 4 or it might be 6.

Monsieur Lièvre [*looking round the room*]: Is there any more too it?

Madame Pipe [*unconcerned*]: I'll tell you later

Later:

Voices drowned out by the sound off pen on paper.

Curtain

Fin.

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