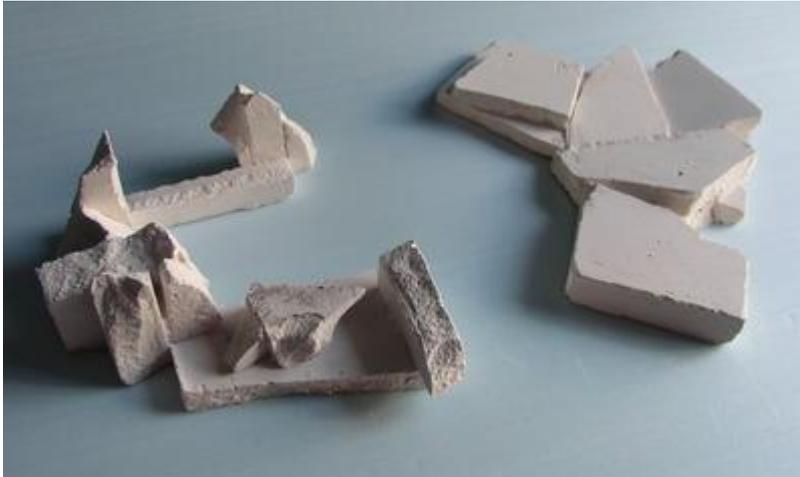


Climbing Mount Zion on Morocco Street

GEORGE BINNING

Wednesday 15th May 2012



William Corwin's *Mt Zion* has just opened at the recently relocated [George and Jorgen](#). Though a bit off-street, the gallery seems much more at home in London Bridge than it did above the Salvo off Regent Street.

It's the industrious New York artist's second solo show in London, and already his distinctive visual language has emerged. We make the journey to *Mt Zion* expecting some kind of revelation, of course. The smell of MDF and plaster, the absence of colour, and the clean lighting immediately convey that the basic framework and the bare bones are what concern us here.

Near the entrance invisible chess boards decorate the wall; skeletal fragments of plaster are neatly arranged on clean processed wood. These simple, slightly crap objects act as a thematic introduction to the main event.

In the first large space is the altar set piece. Giant chess pieces *King and Blue Boy* flank the altar. In his last show, *alans wood*, Corwin's scattered white cuboids took on the character of toy-town Armageddon. Here they take on a much larger scale.

At two feet tall, chess pieces start to look like chess players, with their own goals and ideas about where they might move. They are assembled around a small icon, a blueprint for their chaotic construction.

Corwin is trying to evoke the deep sense of self-reflection that comes with entering a holy place. In this mood, you arrive the last room. It's like the crypt of a Cathedral or the dimly lit recesses where museums keep only their most ancient and precious artefacts.

Gallery viewers slowly circulate in reverent silence, around Lucy, Corwin's representation of Donald Johanson's 1978 discovery, *Australopithecus Aferensis*, the mother of modern man. Through the study of her bones, or the veneration of her corpse, we can discover a lot about ourselves.

Corwin has been artist in residence at the Clocktower Gallery, New York, and at the Centre For Recent Drawing in London. He has appeared all over New York and, internationally, he has exhibited in Beijing, Taiwan and Hamburg.

In 2013 he is teaming up with urban planner Neil Greenburg to create a large scale sculptural game that will inhabit Staten Island Ferry Terminal. His largest work yet, it will be viewed by 65,000 daily.

I will look forward to seeing William Corwin get the opportunity to take on projects of such size. He has established a manifesto and should take it further. It is worth taking a trip to *Mt Zion*: it may prove to be a prophetic exhibition.

Will Corwin's Mt Zion is on at George and Jorgen 9 Morocco Street, London, SE1 3HB until 27th May 2012