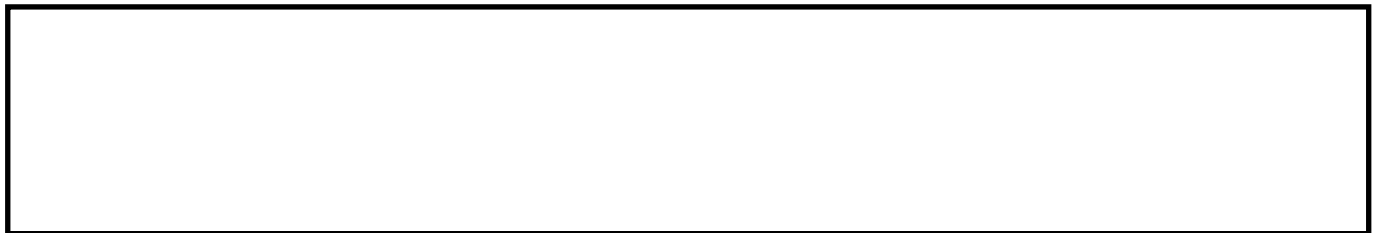


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Plant matter: “A play of forces”; after translating entropy.

CLARKE, J.

2017



PLANT MATTER

"A Play of Forces": After Translating Entropy

Jen Clarke

June 2015/March 2017

This work explores ideas of excess and entropy, working with ikebana arrangements of plant matter at different stages of freshness and decay, partly in order to explore the related ideas of photosynthesis – essentially the ordering of disordered matter to make matter/things with light through the transformation of light energy to colour – entropy, and ‘excess’, in juxtaposition with Bataille.



‘The living organism, in a situation determined by the play of energy on the surface of the globe ordinarily receives more energy than is necessary for maintaining life; the excess energy (wealth) can be used for the growth of a system (e.g. an organism); if the system can no longer grow, or if the excess cannot be completely absorbed in its growth, it must necessarily be lost without profit; it must be spent, willingly or not, gloriously or catastrophically.’

(Accursed Share Vol. 1, 21)



‘Thus, at all costs, man must live at the moment that he really dies, or he must live with the impression of really dying’
(The Bataille Reader, 287)



‘Everything is rich’
(Accursed Share Vol. 1, 13)

1 “Inner experience is an experience which is rich beyond comprehension, beyond being reduced to being an internal experience and beyond being captured within the concept of experience.” (Noys, 2000:55)



'The blind spot'²
(Inner Experience, III).

² Bataille uses "the blind spot" metaphorically to indicate the moment of non-knowledge: 'knowledge which loses itself in it'



'your life is not limited to that ungraspable inner streaming; it streams to the outside as well and opens itself incessantly to what flows out or surges forth towards it [...]

'I am and you are, in the vast flow of things, only a stopping-point, favouring a resurgence'
(Inner Experience, 94-5).



'I was not insane but I made too much of the necessity of leaving,
in one way or another, the limits of our human experience ...'
(Visions of Excess, 74)

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