

“Sunny and Hilly”

Hany Armanious, Andy Boot, James Deutscher, Fayen d’Evie,  
Helen Johnson, Jonny Niesche, Joshua Petherick, Marian Tubbs

8 February – 15 March, 2014

Opening: 8 February, 4-7 PM

Press Release:

“Minerva’s Superfetation”

A poem on the occasion of the opening of the Minerva Gallery  
Sydney, 8 February, 2014

‘The owl of Minerva only takes flight at dusk.’ — G.W.F. Hegel

Here, now, in Sydney, the Oldest West of White Australia —  
Still the bastard love-child of Bentham and De Sade  
(As Robert Hughes puts it in *The Fatal Shore*) —  
At an indistinct yet absolute fault line of the city  
Where the oleaginous networks of fiscal ascendancy  
Lick the drug-bespattered arse of the rotten Cross,  
And the junky dancers can barely be told from rich joggers,  
All lycra and navel-piercings and tans-so-fake-they-must-be-real,  
There stands Minerva, ‘an historically-significant inter-war building’  
Bridging the hard corner of Orwell and Macleay Streets,  
Named for the Roman goddess who presides over art,  
Wisdom, schooling, medicine and war, arrogant, virginal,  
Not born through parthenogenesis nor pollination nor sexual reproduction,  
But from the first thought of Jupiter, Lord of the Gods,  
When they cleft his forehead and his daughter leapt out  
Screaming a war-cry so terrible the skies themselves trembled,  
That one gets the derivation from Sanskrit, *\*men-*, ‘mind,’  
As the original terror of thinking entering the world  
On wings as deadly as the owl her spirit companion,  
Black eyes without profile at the last hinge of day and night,  
Giving ten thousand works to be seen that were never before.

Justin Clemens

Minerva, 4/111 Macleay Street  
Potts Point, Sydney, NSW 2011  
Australia +61 (2) 9357 3697  
gallery@minervasydney.com  
minervasydney.com

