

corpus as corpse-of

supporting-structures & the lumpen

when someone speaks of a 'body of work' i can't help but think of
a body-at-work - or, maybe, a body-after-work.
the body at the end of a shift, exhausted and spread out

laid, outstretched

[where are the index fingers? the joints, the digestive tract -]

with someone tracking, overseeing (or overlooking?)
the 'body of/at/after work' is not unlike poor Cavity Sam in that 'Operation' game,
enduring the tweezer-ing out of parts that are more or less functional to the whole -

the 'body of work' as a sum-of-parts laid out, out-spread
like toes

they want to see the soles of the feet, the grounding work, footholds
- but also the dimples, the aesthetic impressions.

a 'body of work' is after-the-fact:

'corpus' (noun: *a collection* but also *a mass/structure/body*) as 'corpse-of' action, a mulching body
of stuff having happened at one point or another - but it's only allowed to be so mulchy as the
preservation, the conservation, the embalming into PDF format is sine qua non. the body of work is
sacred, of course - a transubstantiation of artist labour, sweat for gloss etc etc.
our 'corpus' is entombed, confined, boxed-up -

boxes fulfil their purpose [to be filled] through lumping-together disparate material
- through containing matter. Despite being formally more definitive, the contents of a closed box is
more indefinite; like Schrödinger's box perhaps, as the innards are both dead & alive - not
something, not nothing, some lumpen non-thing. Lucy Razzall touches upon how death is boxed
up; the 'visceral reminder of mortality had to be contained, hidden from sight [becoming] "a lumpe
of filth"'. Concealing lumps within boxes is maybe to exclude from life that which is difficult to
acknowledge. But it could also be to respect, or to conserve -
lumping-together & boxing-up not to rot, but to maintain, to delay degradation -

Alongside this box found in my mum's attic were documents relating to the two previous owners of
the house. I am reminded of Derrida's discussion of the Greek *arkheion* (the underpinning of
'archive') as the 'house, domicile, address' of the archons who were not only responsible for the
physical maintenance of documents, but also their interpretation - the documents lived through
them.

the documents found in my mum's attic included their death certificates -
am I exhuming the previous owners? lifting up & airing out?

No, this is not their burden:

their bodies-as-documents cannot constitute *this* body-of-work, in any way -
rather the box carries that burden, for now, at least.

'bag/belly/box/house', net, rack, container, support structure-
the box as supporting-structure [as-producer-of-corpus], has held my lumpen practice and all it's
not-knowing for a number of months now
- storing & storying, being privy to
and soaked in,
all that my 'body of/at/after work' mutters.