Seria Ludo 2 2015

Christopher Le Brun

Series of 5 woodcuts
Sheet size: 77 × 56 cm (30⅜ × 22⅛ in)
340gsm Fabriano Artistico
Edition of 15
Signed by the artist and numbered on the reverse

Christopher Le Brun
Seria Ludo 2, 2015

Five woodcut prints

Seria Ludo translates as 'serious matters treated in a playful spirit'.

Simply cut and hand printed by the artist in his studio, the directness and improvisatory quality of his woodcut technique is captured in the above quotation. These new prints build on the striking new developments in Le Brun's recent painting. Colour, shape, touch, risk, all these concerns continue, but colour now dominates, accompanied by handling of confident and celebratory energy.

Seria Ludo 2 is remarkable for the lucid way in which form arrives so clearly from the method used to achieve it. With nothing but cutting and gouging, and printed merely with the pressure of the hand, this deceptive simplicity nevertheless achieves complexity and nuance. Each print, while following the pattern of the master plate, retains a vivid sense of time and spontaneity through the deliberate unique gestural variations that hand printing involves.

When David Anfam writes '…their immediacy is layered, transitional'[1], he refers to the underlying sense of symbolic significance beyond their immediate effect which gives a coherence of tone throughout Le Brun's work. This is exemplified by how naturally lines by the 17th century metaphysical poet and mystic Thomas Traherne serve to accompany the blazingly yellow print from this group.

'The corn was orient and immortal wheat, which never should be reaped, nor was ever sown. I thought it had stood from everlasting to everlasting.' Similarly a line from the troubadour poet Arnaut Daniel, as translated by Ezra Pound: 'Thus the light rains, thus pours' now plays the part of libretto for all five prints.

1. David Anfam, 'Fire over Ice', in *Christopher Le Brun: New Paintings*, London: Ridinghouse Editions, 2014