TRIPTYCH

Panurge and the Modular
Catalan Wall
Chinese Notebook

The works on display represent three related themes that interest me as an architect: measure, drawing and cities.

Measure
Everything is measured in some way. Proportion is central to any reading of architecture, and no more so than that of Le Corbusier’s idea of the Modular. In book 2 of the Modular the curious character of Panurge (from Rabelais) suddenly appears and who wishes to find the answer to all measure. This surreal shift in the text of the modular creates a window on the scientific need to codify and define, and the abstract nature of our human experience. There is reference also to the marks on Ogham stones.

Drawing
For me drawing is a necessary abstraction in order to connect looking, thinking and making. Paint takes on a material –almost alchemical- substance where the lines can be read and felt which in turn take on an associative charge. The directness and pleasure of drawing in paint allows an exploration that contrasts to that of the nature of architectural drawing. This work is in part an homage to the work of Antoni Tàpies which has inspired me over many years.

Notebooks
How do we record our experience of cities? Today we are surrounded by a plethora of digital devices that can capture images and post them globally on the web instantly. For myself, a notebook and pen are indispensible aids to capture a personal space of observation: to draw, collage, absorb and reflect on what I experience. This notebook is from a period spent in China -where the encounter with the intensity of Asian urbanism and street life, is hypnotic and intense.

Paul Clarke  Sept 2011