

A Secret History of Clay

Clare Twomey & William Cobbing in conversation

Clare To see your work William is, for me, absolutely exciting because I've seen different developments of it, and I feel a great kinship with the brave work you're undertaking. Today I'm curious to ask you about this performative body of ongoing work, because it wasn't a blip. This has been a continuum throughout your practice. I'm interested about that journey. I want you to start at the very beginning.

William The exhibition was called *A Secret History of Clay* at Tate Liverpool in 2004, showing an array of esteemed generational artists like Lucio Fontana and young contemporary artists such as us, Francis Upritchard and Roger Hiorns. Being quite young, it was a seminal moment for me in the sense that the video I made, *Eating My Teeth* (2004) (figs. 1–2), was a very focused moment for my work, similar to what I did in yesterday's performance; wearing a clay head!



Fig. 1. *Eating my Teeth*, 2004



Fig. 2. *Eating my Teeth* (front cover image), *Metropolis M*, issue 5, October–November, 2005