DAN SHIPSIDES - ha ha hiatus right & left doors

http://www.danshipsides.com/DshipsidesWeb/Ha%20ha%20doors.html
"ha" Hiatus: Right (Bespoke righthand VW van door panel.)
"ha" Hiatus: Left (Bespoke lefthand VW van door panel.)

Dibond. Aluminum hanging
Each approx 100cm x 76cm x 3mm

Dan Shipsides
2015

This is a work which relates to Alfred Jarry’s amazing and beautiful book 'Exploits and Opinions of Dr Faustroll, Pataphysician' written in 1898 but published posthumously in 1911.

In it, Dr Faustroll’s side-kick Bosse-De-Nage, a dog faced baboon, speaks often but only ever says ‘Ha, Ha’. Chapter 29 generously elaborates some thoughts concerning the words ‘Ha’ ‘Ha’ where ideas connecting with time, space, duplicity and oppositionality are expanded and grounded in these sounds. Also relevant is that Faustroll and his side-kick (oh, and a bailiff who is chained to the oars...) travel through a strange archipelago in a ‘boat’ which is actually a sieve made of a material which repels water absorption, allowing it to skim just above the surface. It sounds absurd, and it is, but these ideas pre-figure many concepts that have since emerged from the world of physics.

So anyway, I needed to replace some damp wooden slide door panels in my VW van and so I decided to use dibond - a material which would not hold moisture and therefore would be a better material to use. My children and I love travelling in the van on adventures to the sea or the mountains and we love waking up in new places, sliding the doors open to the often (but sometimes not so...) fantastic views. So it seemed pertinent, and fun, to drill, with hundreds of holes, the words ‘ha’ ‘ha’, one for the left door and the other on the right door, to celebrate or mark the moment and to recognize the time and space we are in. It’s fun too because opening and closing the two slide-doors physically acts as the articulation of a reciprocal laugh. So, every time we open the doors we make life, art and laughter (see Dumal’s 1933 essay on pataphysical laughter). My kids love and understand this, without the over-complications of theory – but they also understand time travel too.
Chapter 9 (abridged):

CONCERNING SOME FURTHER AND MORE EVIDENT MEANINGS OF THE WORDS “HA HA”

We may properly bear in mind the customary and distinct speech of Basse-de-Nage, so that it may be made clear that it is with reasonable intention and not from malkony that we have always reported it in this form (often together with the most probable cause of its premature interruption).

“Ha ha,” he said succinctly. But we are in no way concerned with the accidental fact that he usually added nothing more.

In the first instance, it is more judicious to use this orthography AA, for the expression is never written in the ancient languages of the world. It is pronounced in Basse-de-Nage as follows: “Ha ha ha.”

The former obviously equal to the latter, is the formula of the principle of identity, a thing is itself. It is also the same time the most excellent definition of the very person – man, since the hash’s differ in space, when we write them, first of all in time, just as two things we never been together – even when looking from the other books of that man’s Basse-de-

Nage.

The first ‘A’ was perhaps present in the second, and we will therefore, willingly write this A & A.

Pronounced quickly enough, until the letters become confused, it is the idea of duality. Diagonal.

Pronounced slowly, it is the idea of duality of echo, of distance, of symmetry, of greatness and duration, of the two principles of good and evil.

But this duality proves also that the perception of Basse-de-

Nage was excessively discontinuous, nothing was continuous and analyzable, nothing to all sensory and to all abstractions.

One may confidently assume, that he could only perceive space in two dimensions, and was extraordinary in the idea of progress, implying, as it does, a spiral figure.

Some simple studies of space and time travel:

[Images of people and objects related to space and time travel]
This work was purchased for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's collection in 2018.

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