

***Disgrace*, Kate Davis, 2009**

Synopsis

Using a 1972 catalogue of Amedeo Modigliani's drawings as a starting point, the video *Disgrace* presents the results of Davis, mapping her body in pencil, over a study of a female nude by Modigliani. Limited to as much of her body as can be delineated on the page at a time, Davis' drawing builds up as a confused and fragmented trail; spilling over the reproduction of Modigliani's own drawing. Between watching the result of each new mark appear and remain, we are cast in darkness only to hear a chorus of comic "boo hoo" dismay. As the drawings amass, the voices recede until we are left with one.

The film consists of 10 sec still frames of each new drawn addition interspersed by 10 sec frames of black where the viewer can only concentrate on the 'boo hoo' sound. It becomes a meditative viewing experience with a sense of discomfort and endurance, which pays homage to many video works from the 1970s, especially the experimental film works of Hollis Frampton. *Disgrace* marks a continuation in Davis's re-evaluation of art historical works through the legacies of feminist thinking and her own role as a female artist challenging those concerns today. This work attempts to claim and add a voice to a representation from which certain voices were excluded at the time of its making, whilst acknowledging the complex ambiguities of such a dialogue today.