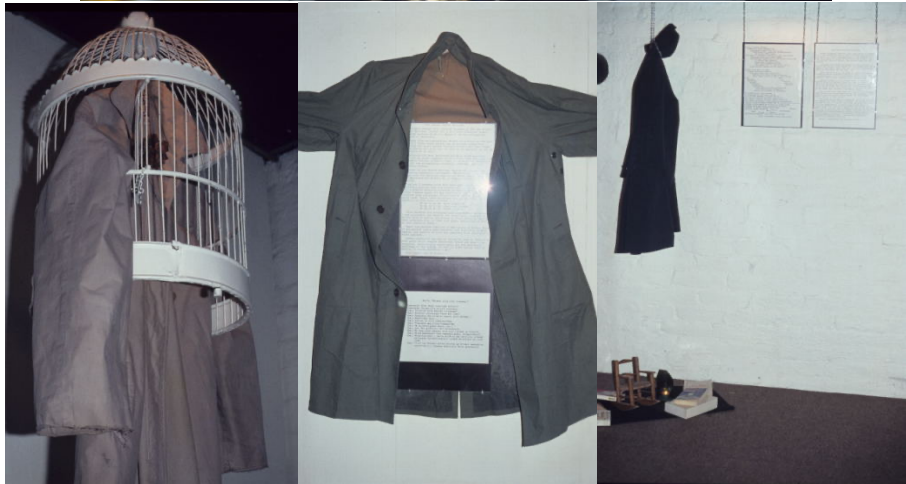


The Seven Famous Raincoats & a Moygashel

Exhibition Series (1984)

*Kellarigalleria Helsinki*





*Joensuu*



*Jyväskylä*



Jyväskylä. 28.2.1985

Dear Raincoat Lovers,

Don't feel slighted that we have only arrived here after that golden cultural triangle: Helsinki-Joensuu-Paris. After all you do have the benefit of experience.

And what can we say of our public appearances? What can we say of Paris? It was hot. Bloody hot. But thankfully we were in the cool of the Gallery in Ile St.Louis. Not that the heat did much for our chances of being noticed. On the contrary, world art takes second place to ice cream in Central Paris; culture bows out. Everyone looks for Bertillon's!

1984 or not, Paris was a touch faded. We struggled as raincoats. Everything is structured in Paris even to the clochards sleeping on the hot air metro vents. Of course we got a few nibbles. Less wit, more dialectics - a typical french request for more this than that, or that than this. But certainly not This and That...

Dobedobedobedobedo...

One lady, Mme Dupont, thought we were absolutely disgusting. She thought she'd catch the plague if she entered the Gallery. Something she said she would never do if there remained one trace of us. A charming sentiment we have to admit. Mme Dupont was her name!

Harry Sinclair, a delightful rotund bearded ex-newyork shrink left us a new friend before motorcycling back home. A lined Burberry, spanking condition. A little classy for our company. But no doubt he can slum it occasionally. For culture and art of course!

Our dear keeper and Creator? Well whilst we lived out life, or death rather, in this structured dream of old Europe, he got a sun tan on the Quai d'Orleans. Beautiful boys, topless delicious ladies, not a raincoat in sight. We thought he'd forgotten us.

But he didn't let us down. When it was time for Life after Art, back he came. And frankly we were glad to get out of the noisy humourless, ice-cream dreamed city, and get ourselves up here in this Baltic wedge of a world again.

Our best wishes then for 1985 and greetings from Paris. This may be the last you ever see of us. For there is Life after Art.

*The Seven Famous Raincoats & A Moygashel*

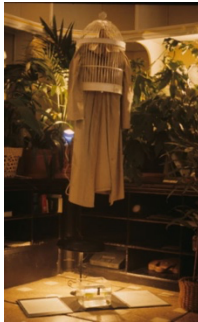
The Seven Famous Raincoats and a Moygashel ( and friends).

*(and Friends).*



*Les Fous de L'île, Paris*

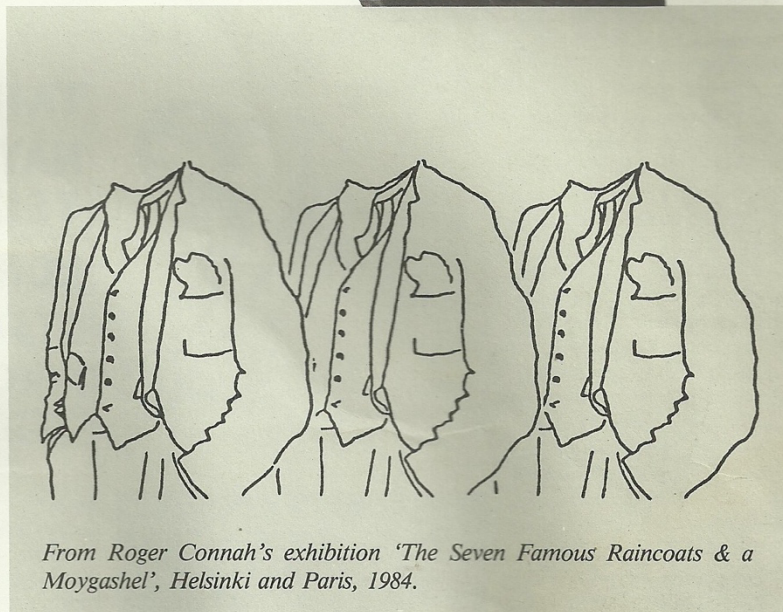




## The other way around

*Roger Connah,  
born in England,  
has been living  
in Helsinki  
for six years.  
Writer of fiction,  
poetry and  
essays.*

## Mysticism from Helsinki to Paris



*From Roger Connah's exhibition 'The Seven Famous Raincoats & a Moygashel', Helsinki and Paris, 1984.*

I would characterise the *Roger Connah* exhibition as literary space art which contains surrealist and naive elements. The artist transports the visitor and involves him in the experience with the aid of visual compositions and miniature essays which make the viewer's thoughts take wing, all built around coats that have experienced very much indeed. With his works, Roger Connah creates thickening atmospheres into whose mystical feelings the viewer is drawn. The artist presents an allegory of the whole of human

life from childhood to old age.

The exhibition makes people think, remember the past, think about the future in a world-wide manner. The exhibition is situated in the heart of Paris with the Seine flowing on both sides and Notre Dame nearby emphasizing the historical significance. It would seem that *'Les Sept Célèbres Imperméables et le Moygashel'* has required a trip from Helsinki to the remoteness of Joensuu and on, to the metropolis of Paris, in this order.

*Marja Turkka*

*The Given Famous Raincoats & A Questionnaire*

Has this Exhibition :

- Annoyed you
- Amused you
- Bored you
- Interested you
- Changed your life
- All five

Do you think this Exhibition :

- increases Entropy
- encourages anarchy
- introduces fallibility
- does nothing of the sort

Would you suggest the Artist :

- give up
- use overcoats
- keep to poetry
- commit suicide
- write an Art Textbook

Has the artist confused :

- The Tyranny of Meaning
- The burden of signification
- Blindness with Insight
- Insight with Oversight
- Done nothing of the sort

If on a dark night :

- would you avoid the Artist
- cross over the street to meet him
- hurl abuse at him
- offer him your own white stick
- take him for a drink ( careful:think first - whisky and guinness!)

Do you think the Raincoats :

- Perform more than they profess
- Profess more than they perform
- Don't understand the question
- Show this century as Fiction
- are a Sentimental Journey

Is The Moygashel :

- like your Father's
- " so very english "
- untranslatable
- glinting in sunlight
- "worse for wear"
- a Rhetoric of  
Temporality

If on a Dark Night,an Exhibition.  
is not the name of a novel by :

- Italo Calvino
- William Huxley
- Milan Kundera
- B.S.Johnson
- Laurence Sterne
- Jean-Louis Bory

To bring this exhibition from  
Helsinki via Joensuu to Paris  
is :

- Pretentious
- Cunning
- Suspect
- The only place for it
- Sheer nerve
- all five



