

## IN AND OUT OF A VOID

Lily Laita

I've been working in and out of a void or 'va'(space or gap) since art school in the late 1980s when I constructed a black polythene box to paint on black paper because I didn't trust the light. In reflecting on my processes, there is always something of the 'other' about my work that I'm never certain is the id or the ego, or who cares? The aura is there –'au'-'ra' – I am there (well, I was there in the making of the work). Hmmmm, how to site oneself without sounding like a tosser or demographic bargaining chip? Boundaries, I think, are transparent and definitely liminal and in a state of flux, but I am constantly falling off my discourse/horse and landing in the 'va l ta' (space and time before dawn). Which is fine, as I think about painting as a language and a bodily function – a necessity and a means to communicate.

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Figure 1. Lily Laita, *Westside*, 2009. Courtesy of the artist.



Figure 2. Lily Laita, *Welcome to the Westside*, 2009. Courtesy of the artist.