round 1 – ding ding ding

the artwork was to be called ‘Blow’ ... a term in boxing for a punch that makes contact

it suggests a hard hit has been landed on the opponent ... to bring the one landing the strike closer to victory

and to ensure fairness and equality in the boxing ring ... opponents are usually well matched in terms of

height ... weight

age ... gender

such measures validate the strike or blow that lands ... and accurately reflect the boxer’s worth

determining skill and dexterity ... yet some blows are mimics

staged provocations ... no contact made

... and so
the artwork was to involve two participants of equal weight
height
age
seen boxing
so as not to make contact
not to negate the intensity of seeing a punch delivered
we anticipate the thumping shudder on our own bodies
for even if we know and believe the strike not to be real
bang bang bang
“ooh”
“wooah”
it would last around twenty minutes
physically spent and on their knees
wheezing
...
round 3 - ding ding ding

the audience were to be in close contact
the two opponents would 'throw' punches at each other
the failures presenting a paradox
provoking a sense of judgement
introducing thoughts of morality on pugilism
bringing a heightened awareness of self
as contributors to the act itself
well that was my hope

as passive participants
blows to never make contact
a violence to be stopped yet false in delivery
even if they could tell the blows weren't making contact
and imbalance
as observers
and how they rationalize that
to give a moment of pause of thought

and so
and I asked many men who box to take part
this included my boxing trainer
but none would be seen ‘hitting’ a woman
this artwork was developed five years ago
yet this work has never been made
no two opponents facing one other in a crowded room
a woman and a man
no play to be had on balance and imbalance
it is stuck in the locker room of the gym
sat waiting on the bench
left in the studio
stuck fermenting in my head
the aggro

to be my opponent
who was not frightened of tapping my chin in sparring
even though the act would be staged and without contact
in 2011
it’s in limbo
fists raised
squared up as equals
no audience to witness
hand wraps on ready to wear boxing gloves
waiting for something to happen
in drawings that show how it might look
imagining the sweat
the blow

and so