

LUNGLEY

Brian Dawn Chalkley

Angels Suffer Too – Part 2

06/05/2026 - 01/08/2026



Drowning in dreams and burning to be gone (2026)
Pencil, ink and embroidery on cotton, 93 x 100 cm
Photography by [Agnese Sanvito](#).

Lungley Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Brian Dawn Chalkley. The exhibition titled *Angels Suffer Too - Part 2* opens on Friday 5th June 2026, 11am - 8pm to coincide with London Gallery Weekend and runs simultaneously alongside their exhibition at [Kunstmuseum Luzern](#), Switzerland.

Brian Dawn Chalkley (b. 1948) is a British artist whose embroidery-based works form a deeply personal and poetic exploration of gender, sexuality, identity, and the fragile boundaries between dreams and nightmares.

For over four decades, Chalkley has investigated what it means to perform and inhabit identity, with their female alter ego “Dawn” a central figure in both their life and art since the mid-1990s, together acting as a vital creative force.

While Chalkley also creates expressive, melancholic portraits painted with a soft brush, it is their textile works that have become particularly distinctive. These pieces are executed on humble domestic materials, most often cotton pillowcases or stretched cotton fabric using a combination of pencil and ink drawing, handwritten text, and intricate embroidery.

The resulting artworks possess a raw, folk-art quality: flat perspectives, direct storytelling, and an apparent naivety that belies their psychological complexity. Scenes frequently depict abandoned seaside resorts, desolate parks, isolated figures, androgynous characters, and surreal or violent encounters. Embroidered elements, sometimes delicate, sometimes deliberately crude, bring texture and tactility to the surface, turning the fabric into a kind of diary or dream map.

Many works blend image and text seamlessly. Handwritten phrases or fragments of narrative are stitched directly into the cloth, creating layered stories that feel both intimate and unsettling. Motifs recur across the years: figures in dresses carrying guns, wild and tangled “washing lines” of coloured thread, lonely animals, and dreamlike landscapes that hover between beauty and menace. Black humour often surfaces alongside melancholy, reflecting the absurdity and savagery of existence.

Chalkley’s choice of materials is deliberate. By working on pillowcases, objects associated with sleep, intimacy, and the unconscious, the artist grounds their exploration of identity and fantasy in the everyday. The embroidery itself carries connotations of traditional “women’s work,” which Chalkley subverts and reclaims as part of a broader dialogue about gender performance and fluidity.

Influenced by American folk art, Antonin Artaud, and Samuel Beckett, Chalkley’s embroidered narratives reject polished sophistication in favour of a more direct, homespun myth-making. The works feel like fragments of a personal mythology: tender yet brutal, vulnerable yet defiant.

Today, Brian Dawn Chalkley’s embroidery pieces are exhibited internationally, most recently in the solo exhibition *Angels Suffer Too* at Kunstmuseum Luzern (2026). In these stitched worlds, beauty and horror, identity and its dissolution, dreaming and waking coexist in delicate, imperfect equilibrium - held together by nothing more, and nothing less, than thread.

For further information please contact the gallery at mark@lungleygallery.com

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