

'Distortion 1' by Clay Gold

'Distortion 1' is the first in a series of pieces which explore the idea that *'all history is the history of man'*, as Allen Wheelis puts it, and that, to quote Nietzsche, *'there are no facts, only interpretations.'* All information is distorted, filtered by the mind.

In 2012, Rupert Murdoch was interviewed by the Leveson Inquiry. The questions related to a period of 30 years. The QC used a method for the major part of the interview in which he would make a suggestion regarding some speculation, rumour or implication and ask for Murdoch's opinion of whether or not it was true, false, possibly true, may have happened, etc. Rupert Murdoch was essentially being asked to give an opinion of other people's opinions of himself. He was being asked to further distort a distortion.

What the Inquiry wanted to get at was whether Murdoch had used social *pragmatics* to manipulate a kind of courtship with several governments, to *orchestrate* a mutually beneficial situation. The analogy was made that this came about like a *pirouette*; that there were no negotiations, but rather an understanding was reached which meant that Murdoch and each successive Prime Minister would help one another. *They* looked after *his* business interests while *he* made *their* policies palatable for the public, via 'The Sun' newspaper.

I recorded all 10 hours of this interview and broke parts of it out into 180 samples, which I spread over the notes of two keyboards. I then composed the piece, *orchestrating* Murdoch's disconnected language as sound. A pirouette did eventually emerge.