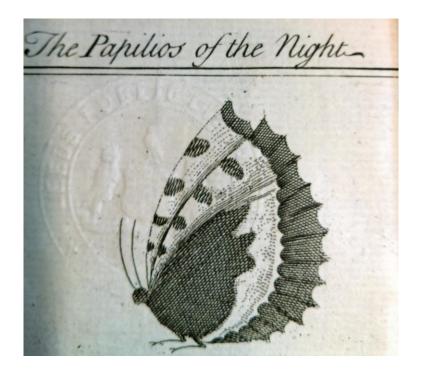
## Papilios of the Night

When I was a child, I thought my baby-felf a crawling thing. At my firft bleeding, old cells difcarded like foft toys, I ceafed to feed, inclofed myfelf in the fmall fepulchre of library books, fcribbled poetry, New Order on repeat.

Under this foldage, I acquired a new Conception and a fecond Birth, changed my skin five or fix times, put on my beautiful Attire. In the clubs and on the ftreet, they remarked on my wonderful Proportions; they called me Nymph. And fometimes I objected and fometimes I did not. In Hideous a/pect, I thought myfelf full grown.

The Tender fhell of academia where fomeone told me there was nothing new in the world while my mind learned all manner of beginnings. From their canon we built Monuments of Death. Robe rent, skin fhrunk back in dry Parchment, I emerged entirely different yet all the fame.

Swaddled again in maternity's tomb, (Tis the Male that gives the Egg its fecundity) I waited for the next refurrection to revive in the Form of a Bird, unfold to the Sun-Beams. Nobody there but the felf I was and that engendered. I protected him from the weight and In juries of the Air: he fpan a Robe to fecure himfelf from the Rain. Now I Agitate my body, till covered in fweat, I flufh Aurelia again. And I know I fhall rife out of the grave of my old age dancing, with plumes in my coarfening hair. and in my last form I will learn the language of the night, the relation of All things, With expanded Wings, I shall commence an Inhabitant of the Air.



'Papilios of The Night', a poem by Becky Cherriman, on difplay at Room 700 as part of the *Bards*, *Idols and Liars* exhibition November 2017.

Images and italicized words from Spectacle de la Nature: OR, NATURE DISPLAYD BEING DISCOURSES On Such PARTICULARS OF NATURAL HISTORY As were thought most proper To EXCITE the CURIOSITY, AND FORM the MINDS of YOUTH. (N. T. Pluche). Illustrated with COPPER PLATES. Translated from the Original French, By Mr HUMPHREYS. The FIFTH EDITION, Corrected. MDCCXL.