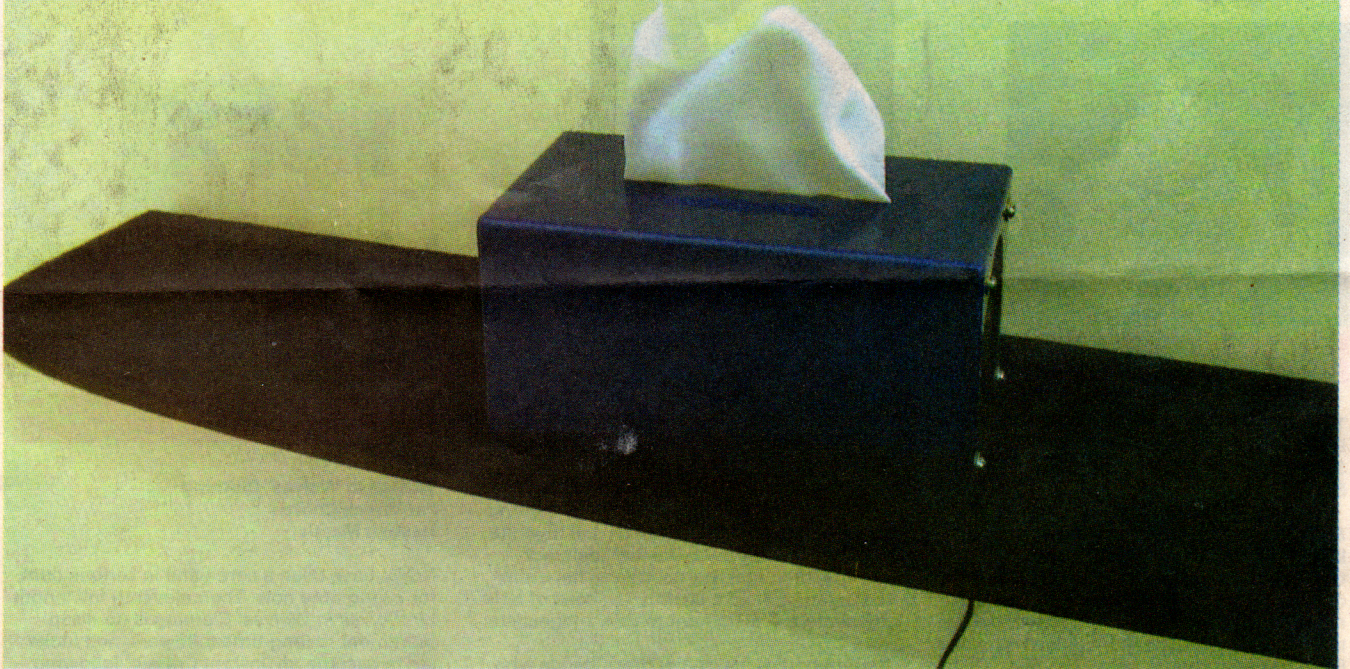


# Eddie Clemens

**British Racing Green – the phenomenon of tissue boxes placed on the rear shelves of automobiles.**



## 64zero3 (till the 3rd June, 2006).

By Harold Grieves.

Clemens new work might best be described as flags. I mean they sure look it—these small pieces of silk fluttering vertically from a box. The key difference though is that unlike a traditional flag, with its horizontal vantage that inscribes a horizon of inclusion, these flags of Clemens are more like upstarts, more like Marilyn Monroe's dress which billowed so indecently about her modesty. Of course that incident is less ambiguous than its burlesque manners would suggest and Clemens' own trafficking, through such a specific cultural phenomena, should be no less contradictory.

Tissues are systematic objects. Tissues smear loads, they carry away excess and feed off abrasions. Tissues induce pity but also nourish comfort and provide reassurance. They tend to either physical or mental wounds, transferring such moments into a remonstrative paths that can never deny the emphasis of a snuffling scene or even pre-empt an unfortunate spill. These scenes of excess play out alongside Clemens' tissues which utter just that one perfect moment, just that one perfect silk cut, so intent on fluttering its own superficial significance within its onerous façade.

Clemens' tissues are pitiful and snide. They exert a moral aggression against pretence. These accessories mime a vanity, one picture perfect with the male driven assertion of burlesque decency. If these flags have their corollary in Marilyn Monroe's suggestive beckoning, then Clemens' social context, his assertion of the phenomena is the tail end, the denouement joy of a post-sublime swallow. These are tissues for an obsolescent age. They stand out neither as the obsessive or neurotic banalities they could be, but instead exact a vindictive and mimetical replication on the very age they exist within. These tissue boxes are designed to run quite easily from the lighter sockets of the cars they spoof. This is the constancy of British Racing Green and it is far more obvious than we'd ever care to assuage. It is as though they issue a surrender that is incredulous yet benign, sympathetic and yet mocking.

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