The fear of knowledge
Carla Weber (Italy)
Fifteenth European Symposium in Group Analysis, LONDON
Cultures, Conflict and Creativity... 29th August – 2nd September 2011
New knowledge

- trial
- uncertainty
- conflict
- lack
- crisis
- fright
Transformative learning

- tension
- desire
- need
- challenge
- restriction
- hamper
Anxiety of losing

- recognizability
- stability
- security
- inner arrangement
- sense and meaning
Grab hold of it

- project
- individual agency
- physical and intellectual energies
- different method

Nico Vascellari, Blonde, 2010
Passionate attachment

- primary relationship
- relationships with others, ourselves and the environment
- life experiences
- cultural contexts
From “emotional reason” to “poetic reason” (L. Pagliarani)

- perceptions
- sensations
- images
- fantasies
- illusions
- dreams
- thoughts
- symbols
“Thoughts in search of a thinker”
(W.R. Bion)

- from pre-conception to conception
- negative capability (J. Keats)
- content - container
“Epistemophilical anguish”  
(E.Pichòn Rivière)

- opposing forces
- threatening objects
- individual and group impasse
- attack on thought

Epistemophilical obstacle
Group opportunity

- to co-partecipate
- to compare
- to achieve a shared common object
- to divide up the anguish
First form of anguish

- The fear of penetrating a new field of knowledge
Second form of anguish

- The fantasy of remaining inside the object of knowledge

Thorsten Brinkmann, Drune Qvoll, 2007
“To the bottom of the Unknown, to find Something new”  (C.Baudelaire)