# ROOF III: for um 5 poets collaborate in Legend ☆ oth er works also summer 77\$2

**Roof III** 

Segue Press, NYC

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# **MEMOIRS**

A poem a day keeps the animal element in tune. Say that you are sitting in the Sheraton Hotel waiting room on 7th Avenue between 55th & 56th Streets after a day's work at Hadassah. Sitting there you anticipate an enormous concert by Andre Watts (my newest hero) and Leonard Bernstein—an event to take off in a couple of hours over at Carnegie. Wow.

Now, I really wish I had baggage because it looks so great—how these men in this lobby wheel suitcases around on their portables. I mean, if I could just say to one of them "My bags are right over here," "Thank you,". Or maybe—if I could just go up to one of the windows, wait in line a little bit, and tell the "concierge"—"A room please", "For how long?" and so on. And then maybe—"Meet my party."

That sure beats reading the NEW YORK TIMES that I have sitting next to me, for now, anyway. So, what do I do? What's left? Thinking, and letting my pen take the time in this space on place. It could come around and be romantic. I like that—thinking about how things could be in the moonlight on Broadway, in this big shining city.

### **POLONAISE**

### Theme

I sit here and look out my window.

I didn't will the world to make its appearance. But somehow I am confronted with a scene I must accept. Not always pleasing the soul, the world takes second fiddle to more enlightening realities.

Somnambulant energies extend their will and I somehow am pulled by my own man-made dreams— where beauty knows no limit. I surround myself with the most pleasing sounds ever muttered. My fancy draws the drama, the contrast needed for a bleary traveller.

The delicate forms of sine waves and light waves descend in an instant and the rudiments are set for the soul to fly.

# **Epilogue**

So free and far flung are the pages of this form that we forget we are sleeping.

Walter calls it a dream screen What appears at a certain distance on one side evokes a reciprocal rose on your side of the screen which is porous, allowing free flow I am told, though like a television screen the image seems gray dots today, flattened grotesquely against the glass, which has no depth itself This is intimacy, a rapid crystallization, which folds the star into a gem stone. The matrix shatters when I try to pass through, but the bullethole is a pore. Vacuums mix whistling, as across reeds Now back away to the horizon with the sun flush whose rays fall even and wide on our screen which was only surface tension after all—open palms on the mirror—and test by where shadows point if the moon rising in the east is equal, as Walter schemed on paper, which persists in delicately fretting its darkness after the sun goes, still dissembling

# YOU AND YOU

As if sage and grass were breath hovering where it can't be since this is mean red land requiring seven acres for each cow to strip of all nuance. So possibilities imagined on the plain in springtime concern you where flowers bloom for a day, yucca and cholla appearing delicate but not to be blamed for their leather and glutinous touch in this heat. I blame the land in animate suspension, the accident of my return during these two weeks of new grass like ground mist or wave phosphorescence violent as a light in the woods The tuning fork vibrates like a collarbone held across the line of one horizon. The forked stick turns in my hand where water can't be, maybe oil shale, maybe yellow-veined uranium ores You and you are all mixed up with each other and the bravery of a flower I can't name that is closing at dusk. The moth around it is shaped like a hummingbird to fool its enemies, huge husky thing it seems in waning light, pollen all over the body

### **END OF THE SHIFT**

women stream out of the factory swearing down the boss & the union. the shift is over, the long day inspecting & cleaning parts, swallowing pills & shouting over the roaring fans, & tho it's a bright afternoon they hardly notice. stumbling over the tracks below the expressways they gossip & argue, worring about traffic. when they get to their cars they find them vandalized, here a battery stolen, here a windshield smashed out, here the tires taken off, the radio ripped out.

Yuki Hartman

# THE WOMAN THE ARTIST AND SPECTATORS

...these Japanese paintings have halted the passing crowd the saffron water is clearing so it seems on a woman's sleeved dress pine needles falling like the axes on her sloped shoulder as you look at it a tiger is glaring in an iris bush—that is—a young boy looking up his head is shaved... ... as the artist seems to have gone mad he throws red hot peonies over the woman's black hair adding the dry branches before the bunch of foaming blossoms and the woman—her face half hidden in the purple of a cotton scarf is seen walking through the crowd in this instance you can touch her although she is screened from the violent hands of the artist us—the crowd between them evaporating his passions

### THE RIDE

On the subway a man is reading the Daily News his shoes the color of walnut and over them the brass buckles like shimmering hands the summer trousers grey and crisp his-arms thick and heavy his bald enormous head his bushy eyebrows...

can see the sports page from this side—upsidedown—the ball
players and a large soap ad behind and above him of a
soft color photograph in which a young girl is enlarged so
that her face is half cut off the soap suds spreading
gently over and inside her palms she is trying to say
something... He yawns and gives me a look

### **PHILODENDRON**

for Cathy

There is a whoosh of leaves, and over the outdoor table a fly buzzes: this is a yellow table cloth.

A slow moving front yard, you rustling with it: the philodendron invaders breathing deep before a sea of green trees and the sun all along the deck, and the vivid begonias have punctuated the run-on sentence of sensations—A peel of lemon too oily in the taste of clear tea, among cubes' icy stares... But it is hot, the khaki jacket reflects the noon blaze, the shrieks of birds occasionally pierce the piles of outdoor chairs and sitting in one of them like a toy, you lean to the invisible quietness over these, like a picture:

May,

1977: waiting for a friend to arrive on the 1:15. An infinity ago, of philodendron flowers

around the sensuous American vacation house in the woods, eating the pear, you open your mouth, speechless: and day takes your pulse,

your green summer wrist.

# **PROCEDURE**

Someone has to caress you by the throat and pour that fire into you forcibly and I plunge my tongue into your mouth of glimmering sea of life and be intoxicated completely I am not a responsible rescuer.

I brush your shoulder with my lips again; the temperature keeps rising. And you have opened up a luke-warm aquarium where the gold fish go around looking mundane: but beneath it all the throbbing quarry keeps erupting and my hand is washed in the steady hum of your forest overhead: the cold water bubbles up, and the current is strong, pouring back into my lungs the golden strings of the water, you play it in the shadow and now elude the classifications and rush into me, a white Cadillac full of mountain roses cruising beside the front yard where a goat is seen nibbling the stubby grass and the newspapers fly up from the doorsteps: and recall there are three bottles of milk sitting in the box

# ANCIENT STATION

The sky's ablaze with Bloody Marys
the digital clock tells the arrival of the trains
looks like a rectangular stone vessel overflowing with sacred water—
the destinations are printed all over in large signs:—Buy tickets
and go there. In the air conditioned parlor cars...
You are there. Blue ink splattered across the evening's face
its eyelashes fluttering with shadows: you look up.
The calcified weather has hoisted your vision as high as the red caps
"Hi, Li Po. Hello, Tu Fu. Please carry these luggages."
The station is full of monkey cries shrieking in the stones
and you wonder how the words have any equivalency
the way the two Chinamen carry your suitcases and boxes
as if they are chiselling those weights into the dirt road,
and every step you take after them is arduous and risky,
while they fly before you like the songs of nightingale.

what rectitude is required in the game? an incidental *cut-out* from half grained paper—

the figure between the thighs of scissors is the rectangular birth, a motherless thing

jig-sawed in the hasty cut: the straight man-shape, putting all reasons aside, walks out.

M. La Bare

### **IMAGE**

Though she is outside She is wearing an apron Her hand rests on the rump of the cow That she's milked for six years We see only the back of the cow, dark and boney But she is in light colors Maybe pink or green gingham And her long arms reach out Through rolled sleeves— From the porch two men watch as she talks To the cow, and the chicken, between The cow's legs, struts toward her Alley cats and concrete make me feel Far from the beasts and the farm woman Milk, eggs, and butter Come from bodegas or Finasts On the back My mother has written the dates 1835-1919 And her name It is my name

### **WOMEN TODAY**

Everyone is still going to parties having a good time. The reasons is to relax, dance, and socialize. But most important for me is to meet a nice women, get into a profound conversation. Than you'll have a few drinks together, get her address and go see her from time to time. Literally it isn't like this. Time has changed, so much that women don't know how to act anymore. The majority get very hostile if you're too critical, or making an attempt to order them, or even whistle at them.

Some women are bold enough to go up to a man and want to fight him.

Most of them where emotionally hurt by men. They think all the man wants is sex. Here is a problem in their behalf. If women keep on assuming all men want is sex. Women today will become more naive and more reluctant to men. It wouldn't surprise me one bit if bisexuallity, and homosexuallity will increase even more then what it is at the present time. So I think women should be satisfied with the jobs society give them.

But they're not. How long most this go on women in conflict with men, because the man plays the superior role. They should wise up now. It's gotten so monotonous so weary, that women are marrying women, and men are marrying men. The world is in trouble.

Soon the two sexes will be divided, each sex will stay with one another. This hypocrisy isn't fullfilling for women, or men by far.

Spelling is the main problem here—learn the words I marked and check the punctuation that I marked.

Chinoiserie is a verbal decoration for four characters who are playing Mah Jong and talking. Mah Jong is a Chinese game that is played with tiles. Players call out the names of the tiles they are discarding, and call out "pung," "chow," or "kong," when they can complete a set by taking one of the tiles discarded by another player. The call of "Ready," by a player means that she is one tile from completing a winning hand. The characters: 1) Swan's Flesh (SF) is a man in his late thirties who works as a free-lance charter airlines pilot—he is married to...; 2) Violet Shade (VS), a woman who could be in her late thirties but who could be much older—she was a Hollywood actress, but now works in the Helping Hand shop at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; 3) Black Jade (BJ) is a woman in her twenties who works as a cosmetics saleswoman at Bloomingdales in Manhattan—she is madly in love with...; 4) Lingering Snow (LS), a man in his early thirties who works as a gardener in the employ of Black Jade's father.

In this section, Black Jade, Swan's Flesh, and Lingering talk about the Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan. Violet Shade tells the story of her life as a Hollywood starlet.

- SF. (from off stage.) Get the tiles ready; we'll be back in a minute. (Black Jade and Violet Shade start arranging the tiles in silence.) (SF and LS return with a tea pot.)
- SF. (to Violet Shade) Black Jade and Lingering Snow saw the Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan, too. (The players stir the tiles.)
- BJ. I loved their rendition of the Green Ladder.
- LS. Which one was that? (The players build their walls.)
- BJ. Don't you remember? Daring feats were performed by a lovely acrobat atop a 12-foot green bamboo ladder resting on the chest of her male partner.
- SF. I couldn't believe it when they sprinkled crushed glass underneath him before they started.
- BJ. No, that was talcum powder.
- SF. We were sitting very close, I'm sure it was glass.
- BJ. How horrible.
- LS. I must have been out getting food.
- BJ. (10 sec.) Wasn't it nice of the Sports Arena to have Chinese food as part of the evening.
- SF. (10 sec.) Did you try the hot dogs orientale? It was a delightful American rendition of an ancient Chinese meat dish served with canned Mandarin oranges and whole celery stalks.
- LS. I wish they would have done the Rolling Jars.
- BJ. What's that.
- LS. Who's deal is it?
- SF. Oh, it's mine.
  - (The walls are pushed into place. LS hands SF the dice. SF rolls the dice.)
- SF. Three. That's you Violet Shade.
- VS. (VS picks up the dice and rolls.) Eleven. (VS counts 14 tiles from the left hand corner of her wall and breaks the wall.)(SF begins the deal, they continue and finish the deal and set up their tiles while they talk.)
- BJ. What is the "Rolling Jars?"
- LS. Oh. It's another act that dates back centuries. Blue porcelain jars are heavy objects and are easily breakable....
- BJ. Yes, they're so slick and smooth.
- LS. ....To be able to juggle them at will requires not only hands, but also one's head, back or chest in a uniquely intricate art mastered so far only by the Chinese.
- BJ. Gee, I would love to see that.
- SF. How did you like the "Circle of Knives?"
- LS. I couldn't watch, I had to bury my head in Black Jade's lap.
- BJ. Oh, is that what you were doing down there?
- VS and SF. Ha ha ha ha ha ha.
- LS. Ha ha ha ha it must be so exciting to be an acrobat. What a life.
- BJ. I would think that being an actress would be the most exciting thing in the world. You could act in scenes all the time. Violet Shade, you're such a wonderful actress I can't believe you don't do it anymore.

- SF. Is everyone ready to start? (SF makes the dead wall.)
- BJ and LS. I'm ready.
- SF. Violet Shade?
- VS. Go ahead.
- SF. 4 bamboo.
- BJ. What did you do before you were a starlet?
- SF. (5 sec.) Violet Shade used to be the star of the St. Louis stage, a luxury usually reserved for brown-eyed brunettes.
- LS. I'll bet you were super stunning. What were your favorite roles?
- BJ. 5 bamboo.
- VS. I was a hoofer mostly, but I got to play Eileen in our musical version of Pride of the Yankees.
- LS. I never knew there was a musical version.
- VS. Oh yes. (3 sec.) 4 bamboo. Two of our local writers saw the movie and were so inspired that they decided to make it a musical extravaganza.
- SF. I never heard about this. How did you ever do the baseball scenes.
- VS. We did them as ballet dream sequences on a dazzlilng flash of sky-rocket red tarpaulin while an ombred blend of pink and lavender lights flooded the stage...
- LS. 2 dots.
- SF. Chow!
- VS. All to orchestral variations of baseball songs.
- BJ. How gorgeous. Do you mean like "Take Me Out to the Ball Game?"
- VS. That was the grand finale.
- LS. I wonder who played Lou Gehrig.
- SF. 4 bamboo.
- VS. We wrote to Gary Cooper, but he said he couldn't tap dance so we found some local talent who looked just like him. But all that was before a talent scout discovered me and brought me to Hollywood.
- LS. Did you get around much?
- VS. Sure did.
- BJ. 1 of bamboo.
- LS. Which was your most interesting date?
- VS. Eddie Albert.
- BJ. No, not really.
- VS. Yes, really, he was such a card.
- VS and BJ. Ha ha ha ha ha ha.
- VS. We were both young and crazy about geology. We could talk about quartz and geodes together for hours. (5 sec.) 9 bamboo.
- LS. Kong. (LS displays his Kong and draws a tile from the dead wall.)
- BJ. Don't stop now Violet Shade. Please tell all.
- VS. Well, Eddie took me to the Bublichki, a Russian cafe where everyone greeted him at the door. I was so impressed. I had never been to such a ritzy place. When you got to the table, the napkins were folded into miniature versions of the Kremlin.
- SF. I remember that place...
- LS. 6 dots.
- SF. ... Up on Santa Monica by the Paramount lot.
- LS. Oh yes, the one with the famous Siberian Sushi Bar. It's sunken so you sit in low red laquer chairs....The glasses are all crystal, stacked and lit from behind by tiny votive candles... and you can always stop and survey your silkening essentials in the huge mirror behind the candles.
- SF. And what a great mirror. It was 20 feet long and had a tableau of Cossack horsemen charging headlong across the Steppes, all etched into the silvery glass.
- LS. The top of the bar...
- SF. 3 characters.
- BJ. Chow!

- LS. ... was all of Ukranian chromium.
- VS. It was so exciting Black Jade. Papa Bublichki came over with his guitar and Eddie sang Caucasian folksongs...
- BJ. 1 bamboo.
- VS. .... Then he began to talk about astrology and the lost continent of Atlantis. I was swept away. (5 sec.) 4 characters. (3 sec.) Later he showed me all the constellations and talked so interestingly and so glamorously that it's a date I will never forget.
- LS. Swan's Flesh, aren't you ever jealous of Violet Shade's old Hollywood flames!
- SF. I suppose I should be but I'm a Gemini dominated by Cancer. The Gemini makes me fickle and breezy while my Cancer nature...
- LS. 1 bamboo.
- SF. ... flourishes under the heavenly lights of Violet Shade's Aries giving us luxuriant dawdles abed sparking our tranquil home life... making us the zodiac's favorite love match. Red Dragon. Tenderness becomes us both so she lavishes me with masterful massages while I'm prone to whipping up gourmet treats for 4 a.m. snacks.
- BJ. You should make a crazy-quilt to huddle under—a deux!
- VS. What a good idea.
- BJ. 1 character.
- BJ. What type of Hollywood man do you like best, Violet Shade?
- VS. Well, they all have they're charms, but for Hollywood men, I like the Cary Grant type—gay, cheerful, tender, and so attractive.
- SF. I never knew that you dated Cary Grant. Another one of your little secrets?
- VS. I've never even met him. He married Winter Rose before I even had a chance, worse luck. (5 sec.) I remember going by his dressing room once and seeing at least ten girls waiting outside. They were all dressed up in make-up and stockings. I couldn't have possibly competed with them. I saved my stockings for my screen tests.
- BJ. Couldn't you afford stockings?
- VS. 7 characters. You're so young Black Jade you just don't remember the days of silk rationing. Hollywood starlets kept their legs as bare as empty sound stages just so their fighting boys could have all the silk for parachutes.
- SF. How did you ever do without stockings?
- VS. Well I had two pairs...
- LS. North wind.
- VS. ... of silk and no nylons. I'm not the type that wears hose very much so it isn't as heartbreaking as it appears. Besides, it's hard to boogie woogie with your stockings on.
- LS. I didn't realize that you liked boogie woogie.
- SF. Oh yes, this young star's musical tastes vary from Tschaikowsky to boogie woogie. (5 sec.) 3 of bamboo.
- BJ. (10 sec.) Green dragon.
- LS. (3 sec.) In love, are you the jealous type Violet Shade?
- VS. Yes. Am I ever. Even if I don't know the woman I might be jealous of, I'm still hurt and miserable at the possibility that she is has more brains and beauty, more loveable, more the kind of woman he might like. It's such a horrible state, jealousy. Oh, is it my turn?
- SF. Yes.
- VS. O.K. (3 sec.) South wind.
- VS. Did you ever marry anyone, Black Jade?
- BJ. No, but there were some close calls.
- SF. What was the closest you ever came?
- LS. Green dragon.
- BJ. When I went to Mexico in November, 1970. I went to see Jaime Jorba, a handsome Mexican painter I'd known for years and I almost married him right on the spot. Even in November, the Yucatan was hot and so were we.
- LS. Aw come on.

- BJ. No really, it was so romantic....
- SF. North wind.
- BJ. .... We spent our mornings like ancient Mayans watching a golden Yucatan sun rise, slipping up into the wild blue yonder like a radiant corn tortilla over the truest carefree blue Carribean Sea. (5 sec.) 2 characters. It was just after the last hurricane of the season. We talked things over and decided that marriage was unfeasible for the moment. His family objected to me because I was so wild and zany, and if I married him, they were going to insist that I live in Mexico City. Also, speaking of jealousy, Jaime was so jealous that he didn't even want me to look pretty for fear that I would attract other men. It just wouldn't have worked out...but it was a close call to matrimony.
- LS. It doesn't sound like such a close call to me....
- VS. Red dragon.
- SF. .... He sounds like a real jerk.
- BJ. Oh, you would have had to have had to have known him. He knew all the Mayan pyramids by heart.
- LS. (5 sec.) Are you in love now, Violet Shade?
- VS. No, except with Swan's Flesh. Eddie Albert is one of my favorite boyfriends, a real sizzler in fact. He's thoughtful, considerate, and very amusing company, but it's not real love.
- BJ. I love being in love, but it makes me so sentimental.
- VS. I get much more sentimental about...
- LS. 7 bamboo.
- VS. ... birthdays and anniversaries. Finding choice little mementos is a real thrill and parties....
- LS. Speaking of presents, we still haven't come up with anything for my sister.
- BJ. I've got it. How about the whole set of Chen Yu chinese nail lacquers.
- LS. She loves nail polishes. What colors do they come in?
- BJ. Well, you have to get the whole set. Let's see, there's jade dragon, ming yellow, panther night, wisteria sky, royal plum, mandarin mauve, china doll...
- SF. 2 bamboo.
- BJ. ...blue moss, flowering plum, fuchsia blossom, joss house, flowering almond, opium poppy, lapis jade, temple fire, peking pink, lotus breeze. (5 sec.) 1 dot.
- VS. Pung!
- BJ. My memory must be slipping, I can't remember them all any more.
- LS. My memory always slips when I'm on vacation, that's one of ....
- BJ. Oh, and this dewey clear laquer called empty pagoda.
- SF. I used to paint my toes to surprise my dates. My favorite shade was crystal cynosure which was a very scintillating shade of steely turquoise.
- VS. And I thought that I was your favorite shade.
- VS and SF. Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

# **SCENES FROM MONTALE**

1

A tendered silk which is not the case by anchoring

2

The walk it sometimes seems

3

Hair it is my liquid life

4

Flouriscoped in oil, barred to speak of voltage with its salvage window for the society of the sea

4

Invested to you remote

6

So it shows the same

7

A mouth underneath all the shady boughs

8

(And meanwhile evening shoes in the cow)

(

Fished immersion from the marked rapid then closed

10

February to spend a birch & waited

1

Accelerating and trump the brother with ice

10

Fine hard scattering: traffic from lightened cups with tags of clouds' aqua mist

13

Take it away and make it sleep

14

An aura of chocolate in fog

15

Visible locks contributed

16

Cracking brilliant

17

When suddenly

18

In keeping with the violet state civil and personal

1

Pruned of lateness and buzzing

20

The impulse to

21

Assisted, besides

22

For one of its spaceships is grand and the other drifting

23

To gamble on

24

Crownings and canvas stars

25

Rowing between Polish and Portuguese

26

But monitor hardly owing

2

Catching its breath (on the telephone wires)

25

The full incidentals of squaring off

20

As if the breeze were a train and each small town the moon

30

Spilling birds onto

### THE HOT ROLL THEFT

Tony and John
at four A.M.
out to get wine drunk
stopped by Tucci's bakery
to lift a cooling tray of rolls.

Warm summer 4 A.M. & nothing doing

the red flashing light
caught them at the edge
of town they fed the glove compartment
all it could hold

stuffed the rest

under the seat.
Cop said

I just got a report that two guys in a truck like this one just stole a tray of rolls from over the back of Tucci's bakery

John silent Tony talked

what the fuck ya talkin' about, we don't got no Goddamn rolls, look I got sixty fuckin' dollars in my wallet I gotta steal fuckin' rolls?

Cop told him to watch his tone & searched the truck, found a roll put it on the hood and said what's that?

Tony said It's a goddamn roll, what you think Tucci's is the the only bakery in town? The cop looked at Tony, Tony looked at the cop the cop looked at Tony Tony looked at John look, these is nice guys, let's level with them yeah, we stole the fuckin' rolls and if they'd had butter we would stole that too

# ARIEL VIEW

for Anne & Chuck Woods

There are details I've loved so much they became a part of me:

hot Spanish bread, the Plaza Real

smelling of earth and stone...

Islands resting
against the Georgia coast, her
alluvial skirts hemmed with
palms growing in the arms of oaks,
birds plunging into dark-throated estuaries
and out again like words breaking
from my throat,
as if I were always
fishing...

I had a friend who held
the details of his life so close
as he lay dying he was shocked
to realize he couldn't take them with him,
that he couldn't even take
the memory of his own brown hand
grown leathery in the sun
holding a cigarette.

"It's what love does", he said.
"Nothing you know makes it any different.
You scream going out
the way you scream coming in.
Shit! You don't
ever want to
let go!"

# 1928 FERONIA, ST PAUL, MN

the birds dive down thru twisted trees

on the boulevard I stare across

to the brown house yellow trim

2 beautiful young (I mean YOUNG) girls every night
undressing in clear windows
top upper room jutting out

from hip roof

Robert downstairs
his piano's nice
last night playing 2 a.m.
Incense burning I lay here
I've hung bells above my bed
plants in my windowed bay
dragon hanging from clear threads
Out in the street w/ trees over
light spring green leaves
budding out, popping
twice their size every three days
the children on bicycles
little red & rusted wagons
pull up & down the sidewalks

across the cracks.

### **FRENCH VENUS**

"I received another one of those letters today. A young man from New York has arrived here in Paris. Having seen Les Enfants du Paradis fifteen times, he insists on seeing me! How did he get my address? Says he met Barrault in New York when he and Madeleine gave a reading there. But no, they would never commit such an indiscretion. And besides, they know. This man says he doesn't know much French but is madly in love with me. Why don't Americans learn French before they come here? You'd think, fifteen times Les Enfants and he doesn't know Prevert's words! What do you think I should do about this, Louise? Usually these people write from New York or San Francisco merely requesting a note or a picture. But this crazy note! My maid read it this morning to me and I could not believe... This man is ready to batter down my door—as if I lived in the Bastille. As if Garance were... Must I tell him? I would like to see him but that is not possible. It would spoil Garance for him if he should see me now. Let him go after girls who look like Garance if he is crazy—as he seems to be. He says he is twenty-one, has been in love, but it was unhappy. As in the film, he did not see his chance and the girl went with someone else. What can he expect from me? Certainly not a mother's love or commiseration. No. I am no longer Garance. I must not spoil her for him. If we were both forty we could meet, exchange pleasantries, all of that. But Heavens! Who knows what he might do if he found out? Only more suffering for both of us...But...not to answer his letter would be cruel. I have been snubbed often enough to realize how painful that is. That too would spoil Garance...Once a man came here from San Francisco specially he said to meet me. But then things were not too bad. We could still carry on a conversation with ease. He, like myself, was older. He must have seen the film when it first came out... Les Enfants was really too much: Vichy after us, Jean-Louis' great eyes, Brasseur's great pompous pomposity. Me? I did nothing special. I've never understood all the fuss about Garance. It's true I had a kind of archaic beauty—Garbo's face and Dietrich's merged one critic said. But all I did was relax and speak the lines. 'C'est terriblement simple, l'amour.' But life? Life is not simple. What shall I do about this boy? Has he seen Visiteurs du Soir as well? Is anything else still shown abroad? I doubt it. Well, what do you suggest?... I'm glad you agree. I must leave him his Garance, his Les Enfants du Paradis. Let him try to live in it, to live it, if he likes. My God, fifteen times. His love life must indeed be very bad. He is young. He sent some poems. He must really be very nice. But no!... I will answer his letter somehow without telling him Garance is blind!"

### **EXERCISE**

The cantaloupe is a whore The cherries have generosity The eggplant is proud purple patriotic The mango is explicitly dark and French The pea is incredible The broccoli is faultless vet needs attention The prunes and dates are packaged The apples are golden The apples are secular The health food cookies feel out of place The carrots eat shit & steamed are sweet The turnips are Jewish Ginger is Hebrew and Chinese The red peppers are bisexual The plum is smooth The papaya'll be sweet in two or three days The avocado is a ski resort high above the bananas The lime is symbolic of the lemon The cucumbers aren't what they used to be Chicory seems useless The coconut is naked The artichoke is trying to make a point The pineapple is a good example of reality The potato is peaceful and grand and sometimes red Acorn is my favorite squash Los plantanos verdes bring back memories In supermarkets cabbage is halved and wrapped Two Brothers from Brooklyn sold to one Korean A cloudy conspiracy of grapes for sale The tomato grows pale The spinach is depressed It's October for the corn I decide among red onions

### **BIRTHDAY SONGS**

O break on through to the other side of the sky which is earth earth earth this song I rain

\*

Now a suitable language O noon

\*

Over The Williamsburg Bridge a galaxy of Hasidic Jews drinking coke playing pool O woe fugue 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976,

? Truth y Beauty I'm scratching my balls listening to choral fantasy

\*

Self, up, down, powerbrakes, peanut butter, peanuts, crunchy peanut bars, peanut oil, Allegheny, American, Braniff, Delta, Eastern, sideburns, things Yeats once said, no static, silver sun masks, blanket, matches, fm radio/alarmclock, a healthy imagination, subway map, TDF Vouchers, opaquing liquid, a taste for rice, many marvelous lives, simple subatomic microscope or scale, a driving naturalness, acorn material, friendly snowshoes, escarole, famous ears, shirts, aluminum foil, cockroach traps, new voids, Jack Lemmon, address book, high intensity bulb, Who Present, Past, And Future, Sees; Poems of Kenji Miyazawa, pepper, a wok.

\*

Self: I'm as pretty as Paul
I'm as smart as John
I'm as sublime as Ringo
I can't figure George out

Soul: The word was I in fire particles
I was dowsed with flesh

3

Self: I want everyone to be correct

Soul: I want to be Truffaut

\*

I'm walking in you now, street! Cold, without a sweater.

I really mean, 'You're in bed, wait up,' but I felt this sudden passion and addressed the street.

\*

two sparrows on delancey street one french bread crust

"thief, thief,"

\*

1963 Giants lose

\*

Free Will Transmits Resolution Ships

\*

the arctic try tremendous fatal months tough humor strikes practice talk at drool meals poor sight returns happy enemies

adorable link
abnormal rook
emperorish instincts o penguin!

miracles nothing bickerings appall Scott's moribund journey done

\*

disco baths on mars go through the park

\*

out beyond the rational mind lies a radio so stay tuned a happy new year to be followed o igor stravinsky your name signed fanfare for two trumpets

\*

I'm a monster when socks become rats in my dream

\*

Our hero always looking back to wake but wait

I don't want to be fucked up Not me Not me

\*

Are not mushrooms glad?

\*

Magnetic field Elevator talk:

I saw in T.V. Guide \$1
for \$36 worth of make-up when I open the package there's a bill for \$7
Now they're on my case

Self: Let's take our hats off,
To The Brothers Karamazov!

Essence of Big Boulder Dream:

"All readers is all"

Soul: I'm in a cave
My eyes are walls
Inside is blackness blackness blackness

"Hey Ritchie, as soon as it starts to snow, wake me up."

I won't charge coffee ice-cream sodas

I'd rather develop more film

I'll leap out

Downtown Living Space,
Bold white letters on glass.
Buzz, buzzed in—Dentist's Office style—
Slumlords lunching: Butter & Pastrami?

Key Deposit my Chauffer's License 174 Delancey 7R Avenue B connects to Clinton Street There's music on Clinton Street

Nonchalant breathes his soft bag Sniffs in the fourth dimension

40¢ delicious Puerto Rican Knish balls

Espiritual Skolnick's Clothing

I approach my 24th year drifting where in a head of seas

R means rear Street door lock busted Garbage can hallway Interesting square alley, R. Narrow metal steps

Hot water, loftbed.

\*

Gentle waves break

Gain the dark

Wish many moments sated

26

# SILVER AIRPLANE MOBILE

silver mobile airplanes move above the noise business at hand, business suspended silver airplanes hanging in the atmosphere not moving enough to effect a passing shadow what's defended lies without strength in the meadow, surrounded by brick buildings of many stories within the meadow the sky is leaded

by boughs of oak
among the quiet of the Great Plains
a brief moment of reflection in the pool
silky & dark music, water motionless
reflective, near the meadow's center
holding an image of these airplanes
in a dull metal surface which is deep
a surface going far down toward rock
which lies singing under the surface
& is its own surface, everything a surface
for the play of visible & spiritual light
the glittering wings of playing planes

# WANDERING ROUND AN EARTHLY COT

I just woke up & I'd been there in my dream, I've just returned to a dream place in place of Chicago of which I'd dreamed a few times before

as soon as I woke I remembered the geography from another dream & while I was dreaming, I knew where I was although I was different, unrecognized

possessed of all the powers of a dreamperson I could wander at will, climb fences & I laughed a great deal when I met anyone I'd known, & I asked one person

why he'd been playing ball in the same court ever since I'd gone & later returned & lost his answer as we both circled around a mound of grassy green where

the Obelisk should have been, though I recall his friend's advice of "never stop in the middle when you're playing ball—it's very dangerous" as beautiful & true

I could & did climb over fences, my cousin Joan (who's in Paris) didn't recognize me when I shouted, I was unrecognized by all I recognized everything, all of it was different

composed of the various parts but respread across a different landscape of the familiar & the expected. It was joyful to know that sloping road rampway for itself

or that massive red brick hostel, a mutated elementary school become prison & crossed over the street, it was all extremely similar & I was happy enough to swing my travelling bag

around my body like a toy on a string but at the end, as I was going through the back way of a supermarket cum rib palace, I became enmeshed in a protective device, & when the smiling

clerks brought me in, they smiled & clucked at my wandering with nothing but a bag & a length of chain, they tied me to that place on an extending wire leash attached at my shoes & belt loops

# **POEM**

From his corner window, the flack can see the river, the longshoremen hooking crates.

The car thief lounges in the sun.

The transmission grinds to sawdust before the cabbie can even tell what's happening.

The bookstore clerk steals a few stamps.

"Loose joints, loose joints," cries the street vendor.

The young poet takes her vitamins.

The policeman eats a piece of fruit.

The busboy carries 8 entrees at once.

High atop the towers the executive lunches at his desk.

Subordinates pass before the open door, queasy, quaking, on their way.

The cooks are throwing raw dough into the air.

The doctor's sleepy stare rises from his desk to assure the dancer her knee will heal.

In front of her glass window, the receptionist spys a swarthy foreigner.

Limbering up, the cleaning man opens the ammonia.

A side of beef is dressed by the cool-eyed butcher.

The tall lifeguard smokes his cigar & reads his Times.

The musician's instrument breaks, the music stops, the crowd sings back.

Behind the bar, the English barmaid savours her Black Russian, slightly moving in time with the music.

The distracted composer shuffles in the unemployment line, waiting to make his mark.

A wry expression adorns the Editorial Assistant as he types the letters of rejection.

Sexily slinks the secretary through the corridor on her way to the washroom.

The barber enjoys his brandy.

Not allowing the petty bureaucrat a word edgewise, the supervisor sweeps the improperly executed forms to the floor with an expression of dust.

The janitor lobs them into the can in a perfect arc.

The pure contralto sings in the organ loft.

# **PARIS ORGY**

for Jim Brodey

Avast, you chickenshits! Thar she blows! All hands on deck! The sun with its gauloise-charred lungs wheezed dry The boulevards which, one night, Los Barbarianos completed. Aqui, chico! Saint City, seated in the Occident.

Vamos! Let's put out the returning fires,
Here the docks, the boulevards, here be
Las casas against the pale linda blue radiating
And which, one evening, starred by the blushing explosions, it was!

Hide the oscuro dachas in wooden webbing, nests of planks! The olden terrified horrified shocked day refreshes your stares, Here we see the red-headed Queens, waggling their hips: Get with it, baby, let it swish off you in waves!

Roving units of sluts, munching tampax,
Those whines and pants on the third floor of the great golden casa are directed to you! Steal!
Eat! Dig on the calle de la noche, with its deep spasms
Trucking on down the line. Pitiful melancholic drunkards,

Get drunk! When come is light and intense, lunatic Piercing into the steam, the luxury of steam, Ain't you gonna drool, no gestures, no words In glasses, eyes fading off towards the white end of the spectrum?

Guzzle, for the Queen with the calgonite terrarium, the big butt! Escuche the tearing of the stupid action, Hiccup, in the salt of the ardent night hear the wheezing pinheads, Seniles, androids, robots romping round!

Hearts of shit, scarifying mouths,
Suck harder, mouths of odor!
Wine for these basket cases, at these stools...
Your belly smothered your cock! Shame, shame, oh honchos!

Open yer nose an puke forever!

Snort til yer noses bleed, drop some strychinine laced with the big "A"

And now, on the star at the base of your head, placing his big hands,

Der Dichter says to you, "Youuuuu chickenshits, get raving;

Since you climb out of one cunt In fear of another tremor It yells, muffling your well-known and widely despised Habit of sucking at her tit, with tremendous strength!"

Syphilitics, fools, Rois, pants-pressers, radio-announcers, What do that pussy Paris care fo' Your cuerpo y corazon, your drugs and duds? She gonna throw 'em out, you virulent jackoffs!

When yer lying in the gutter, sniveling and puking,
A pain in your side just below the ribcage, gimme back my money
my money, my money, dazed and confused,
Far far away from you, the Red Ho' with big tough titties
Gonna squeeze her pissed-off digits.

When your dogs danced so furious in rage, Paris! When you got slashed upside the face When you were lying flat out, retaining in your ojos claros Un poco de aroma of the tawny primavera,

O suffering city, O city quasi-morte,
Su cabeza y su dos senos pointing to tomorrow,
Opening to your paleness its million freeway exits, bridges, and
tunnel openings,
Afro-american studies will praise you to the skies!

Bodily remagnetized by tremendous pennies, You swig down effroyable life, rebounding! You can feel the heat Closing in, poetic worms flooding your veins, And heavy fingers toying in your bush!

Which is okay, too. The worms, poetic worms
Will be as little an impediment to your progressive breath
As was the incomprehensible to the eyes of the incomprehensible,
Where gold astral pleurs fell from the blue degrees.

Though it looks completely hideous, to see you again Thusly smeared, though I ain't never smelled no city So nauseous, green mold on green acres, Der Dichter says to you, "You look great!

Thunderstorms give you great poetry!
Thunderstorms give you great poetry!
Big wheels rushing and rolling inside make you strong,
You work hard, death moans, Chosen City!"

The Doctor will take the Saabs and Volvos to Nassau County, The raging junkies, the wiggling Queens, His love gun will zap the ladies, His words will zip out: Take this, you motherfuckers!

—Police! The damage has been restored!—the interested parties Are crying under the lightbulbs of the massage parlors, The streetlamps, on the raggedy walls Shine most sinister toward the pale, linda, azul, cielo.

# A SMALL GROUP OF MEN WAITING FOR NEARLY AN HOUR

The terms of this single shape makes us the three dimensional quality our mind fixed as parts of large solids displace space as objects in space as the single place as terms for men as part of the ceremony are excluded from a place because as being that gives our eye moves as it approaches a direction begun by the one where these occur as adjectives place solid space through lines implied by this as three existing definite responses initiated by Judy seen from the back and in the right how each rises off to one the gentle twist of the body at the waist records the air occupied by its movements. Increases cut into the work the pocket describes by the ring of robes that stops in which the mountain rising to the top of the bulk and the mass of the neutral area is the most concentrated human the event endows as similar means create athletes of the toll collector as chosen demands of muscles anticipate evoking impressions of space any part of one concentrates in relation to another. Which display his hand and his wound. Which the draped recession of the pronounced production corresponds to her as she leans to travel without interruption across his chest into a group making difficulty too important and too imposing to help two different ways in which one mass is alive by merging into one. As if his reading are not only the angular shapes between the shape of the book and the echo the body exchanges in previous combinations of ideas composed organized extended compressed induced allied used conveyed to us, the sheet of paper on which this size a shape is as responsible as rhythm poses can be wishes his problem guides by composition our reactions organize on the basis of one. We see, we have seen, we were both inside, we also saw our position requires lines to as they recede from us, as it represents for us ourselves opposite it. Control is the desire to be commonly used. In lines that complement an emphasis lines may take place. The intimate and domestic space is attracted to swords. Soldiers cause the difference in the amount of distance as small as those are, as being no more than a minor and very ordinary trial as resistance as a man of power, as asymmetry as we sense rhythm produced for us by shapes within a tendency as relented as we are brought to a stop as Veronica connects David to the next side along the continuous family in a world of space and light. A little girl, a white cap, a fence, the window, the brick building, a lower left-hand corner, the blue of the sky, the surface of the metronome, the curved lines of the sharp pattern of light and dark, the music stand, the steps, the woman's coffee cup and the man's pipe, the table top the wooden fence the red shirt or skirt the soft arrangement the larger size being plastic counters by the girl with the radical desire for composition.

With certain reasons attributed need the introduction of each other. All objects inevitably follow objects as the building and the page. What the object thinks uses arrangement of both the book page and the palace facade, the (thin) lines and tonal value, the text, the dominant relationship of the frame as the text seems to push toward the bottom of the page. The original surface of the page disappears. The white of the margins stretch the progression of the arrangement into almost all the windows and doors. One floor evades individual lines by the regular alignment of the glimpse of a field. We are anyone who would invoke destruction. One between one equals one-half. This is that in the altered example of hay between bales. One is three and two is four and seven. The different parts of a flat achieve men reflected in miniature. A scheme produces an instrument. All the same introductions add parts to the cafe. Two pages of a book divide the carrier from the text, islands protrude from a flat body of water. Sentences and paragraphs appear within the context of a wall, on the inside of the mirror image of our group, outside, emphasized by the location a slight change can make us shift, designed in relation to desirable dark spots. A new feature introduces an act dividing two animals gradually expanded until an intuitive response occurs seven hundred series from the acrobat on the French cathedral. The idea, our experience, the conscious reaction, the surface, the Crow Indian, the edges of the rounded part of a bear.

Because we may be it we remain. We feel we are aware we tend to think as if to keep it from rising too rapidly we see them, their rising movement through it, their ascent as it reaches this point we could move, we would have a surface as flat as the exposed beams and rafters of the roof. We are also the space we find we seek relief from. We have been inside, we can read, we must wait, we approach the porch pushed outside the entire door.

Two of either can be one with a wide variety of confidence, should be more read more first from the second, the third attitude different from mine if mine is something the reader applies to the first two parts, the immediate sense and the nature of script in summer, the possible reader with a new move, the book of friends, the substance of influence, the material of writing induced by appearance from a present state that associates the possession of a mark with the past year and half for the encouragement of sections secures a list found elsewhere and the members of the form I owe my wife shelter many kinds of terms, low benches on the floor and numbers that make up the rooms of Europe and America. Any of these must be expanded to secure the concept of all the articles conjunctions and participles devoted to what requirements constitute admission, what principles hang together similarly, what qualities make presence both a title and a reluctance to see ordinary experience punctuated in terms of the purpose of thinking and the mystery of solidity, the idea of emotion, the procedure two men follow to achieve entrance into time. To speak is to stay within the confines of products. Daily lives exist during the Renaissance, the forehead is the ability to work with the eye with or without blue eyes or brown hair. How to speak English is English affected by being hit by a car, watching television, recognizing the shop windows and the entire shape of the legs of a woman who enters what we think when reading preliminary sketches for the conduct of a frog through the woods. Proximity relies upon a knowledge of testimony. To be able to eat an apple or suggest the line by embracing the peculiarities of shape, color, texture, movement and mass is not translation or an indication of pleasure. Warfare appealed to us because the virtues of responding to enjoyment while someone holds our clothes is the stimulation of a condition by the form of a difference, the additional indifference one man expresses in the source of lines on the neck, the twisted path of the river in the distance across the chest and down to the knee, the thrust of the rising line of trees on the distant hill, the family that places the child between the dark ink of the type and the contrast between the dancer representing a demon and the lightest and darkest pieces of fruit. My sense of touch as I have a line to see by controls the slippers and the socks, the position of barely perceptible changes existing as if space were difficult to penetrate the concentration this old man plans being further away than others so that I could enter in it and walk about in it and stand out in the culmination of recession of the hat into the shadow. Stripes create a face. The act of fainting is the ability to make us feel cool among the colored silks of the other jockeys. An exclamation mark supports the fact that he does not look at anyone or at anything. The comma stretches far back into the distance. The two dimensional state of the period encourages a relationship between the relative sizes of animals. A semi-colon is intact as being in front of a partially eclipsed feeling for depth. Other urges occupy edges of the shelves as other parts of the courtyard, various books, plants, furniture and utensils make it possible for us to imagine the position of her legs. Her hands and face and waist pass beneath. The adverb also weighs down upon the body. The pronoun is fixed by the hands and the sword. The noun hints at one of two directions, the dark edge of the corner of the roof and the ceremony itself. The pronoun divides the spectators from the participants. One foot raised off the ground indicates the weight a preposition might displace. Conjunction junction is a pocket of space reinforced by the ring the gentle twisting of the body at the waist and the movement of the shoulders stops, contains, anticipates and activates. Ring is pronounced personality. Reading suggests the girl sitting motionless beside me, looking straight ahead and not speaking. An interjection, a small girl placed on a flat plane of the brick floor. The syntax of adjectives, the direction of glances.

Just be careful. Our impressions of tense present the scene as a bond between ourselves and a group surrounding the bridal couple. Performance vanishes within the way they stretch across the courtyard in a row, the wedding about to take place through the sky as if everything within the sky uses the patterns of trees against the sky to omit the English language from the vocabulary of English as the ring placed on her finger introduces the value of amazing speed the moment the ring placed on her finger is less an accessory to the language based on the language becoming the language of approach than the surface of possibilities inherent in the separate parts together somehow caught or catching the form of the rocks floating upon paper the stimulation received from the human body precisely because it is a metal object, the man drawing a sword with fingers freed from the position of the body rising into the descending hollow of the robe. The woman dressing the girl invents English words that did not print. Hercules produced other considerations. The kiss, the embrace, this couple, the lovers. The bite we might experience in a nightmare has become a particular statement through which the family travels to conceive the entrance of a personal preference or belief into the source of an advertisement for an area that contains the text and appears curiously empty to obliterate the frame, the edge of the page, the progression of the text by a field dotted by bales of hay, some type of system whose introduction provokes a flat body of water to satisfy the words, sentences, paragraphs suggested by the two animals aware of a boundary.

He creates a specific context. She forced a fingertip so much. It was clockwork. You can turn out the reference to her. A region covers every mean including doing it. I saw my direction from the end of the whole day. Then you did not leave me alive. Then you cite me which is all over now. Passengers clutch revolvers in the shape of gold. Stone designed for switches. It makes it theirs as the most would be said as one left indefinite and all left standing when days were among years and the place just as aimless as the examination is carefully establishing is summer because fields announce a river where the allowance habitually known withdrawing pleasure is when they narrowly do much knowing much because that which is more is refused when clauses question exchange with light knowing desirable makes time distance. Bushes value themselves. Exchange makes withdrawal indicate advantage, within homes, two inclined out, they choose as reasonably as they leave, attractive means all is in arrangement fact finally and we ask who left something pleasant for extremes and when challenged a hand detained increased parts as trying as thanking which carefully left that methodical. Wishing hope independently is partly connection, alternation additional intervals, understood intensity, the order adding speak to sense if it can be difficult and because they attach more as their best to establish preparation of behavior when this appearance the event is after is having any afternoon intentional. When they search that half an arrival disposed of disclosing. When most do more one presentation for addition to surprise left eyes. When interpretation is prepared it is starting. Resistance is the word arousing creates. When they wish it heard influences are themselves. Were things out there each would be from another, and they thought. Their having origin should be four hours to what another prepared and without their doubt it could be changing effort as they periodically approach indifferntly exclusively having represented leaving when more of them were with the next often without more in as any regularly doubt it without having placed much more like reversal within it because everything is not trace once partly as argument partly barely with leaving the boundary. Joining is surveillance. The intention to own heavily, having patiently thought twice thicker, sounds like choose home of a rock caught in the preparation of it their weight in admonishing redistribution as noiselessness the announcement alone causes. It is adversely sugar. Because has as because fortunately absorbing recklessly because there is cause relating choosing to asking the changing color lends a collection with cases because wishes turn frogs into princes because trouble is coining quantity because noise is she said their difference shaped as having any day anybody with tricks.

He creates a specific context. The sky as a group has merged the bodies of buildings with several parts of an actual human body. The arm because it's armlike shapes the concept of the arm for the character of these arms because the arm in arms of the chest abdomen and rib cage of the pattern created by the ribs of the shaped abdomen and the broad shape of the chest creates the names "skeleton" and "moustache". These are not decorative shapes painted on pebbles. The associations originate in the personal vocabulary of shapes: a knife is made to look like a face, the sounds represented by "c" or "o" exist in a world of colored glass, the musicians see the hound stretched out along the floor, the quickly moving train shapes the foliage and the shadows on the ground, the blue dress of the girl sees the shark devour a seal, and the frog's body permits ordinary language to move as ice is a record of water and soap supports the basin of water that floats in two major areas: the person of the queen herself and the gallery free from the illusion of ceilings suddenly bare the same way the moving spectator experiences our marriage directed by the zig zag direction of a car becoming our own world like the shiny toy unfolding the letters on an eye chart arranged as words unlike the poem destroying two states, the catalogue of intervention, the machine like a ball actually a part of the figure of a man walking and the labeled animals in a zoo, the suggestion of his body before and after the moment a front back or side provides a series by a set vocabulary of differences to act as a kind of drug that is also a drug and that shares a substitute for a close-up with favorite materials imbedded in the man-made and organic world.

In other words the record of the space within which we must wait for other words. We enter before the street breaks its back on one side leaving us to the proportions of waves made by a pebble tossed into the lagoon regularly disrupting the reflection of the wedding, heightening the passing of a catalogue of aspects. We see work suggesting decomposition in the individual forms of the west. We watch one stage of definition come down the stairs toward us, increase in size as it passes directly in front of the opening, enter and leave our sight, pass us by, start and end like the sound of air and a whistle suggesting a forward stride, chords, crescendos and feudal interchanges using a vocabulary suggesting that the two are somehow the same. The glass outside the artist himself determines a glimpse into Debussy the cabinet maker, Strauss the architect, Mallarmé the poet and Jackson Pollack rendering leaves branches and figures side by side with leaves flowers and insects. Separate the work of the twentieth century and the invention of Picasso objects to similarities between the result and the resulted. Consideration for language depends upon a lack of skill: a lemon or a ball does not depend upon achieving a bad day. If intention means one line could be altered, to be very high seems relative to the same event two men's physical beauty avoids and approaches because what we do is problems as text.

# POEM BEGINNING WITH A LINE

I do a lot of anonymous things these days to not think about you who know me like soldiers too disfigured to be identified knew Alsatian trenches and now the poppies the stillness of your presence and absence filling my body to be let go but like a miser clutching hot coins but I don't remember

I find me at a fruit stand fingering oranges and figure I'm not in jail and therefore haven't been exposing myself at Gracie Mansion one thought runs into another my steps liquify before I come to your door where a special knock lets me in your movie house genitals that covert activity of South Korean agents who follow my awareness and blackout trying on gloves at Sears the word I like white paint considered chintzy to use jellied cranberry or bribe officials with soft words ransom notes cut from ads about you till I disappear in brown paper covers whose bedrooms are too hot whose halls smell

### **PAY CASH ONLY**

Days period by period advance toward you begin to shake feathers toward me off but nothing will unpoint my finger advancing Vikings on Northumberland exposed your clavicle filled with wine to my lips diverse excess others never believe these years no restraint won us water fire earth the cauldron bubbles space between them filled with space

as they pry us apart with a swifter watch me try to turn you in darkness fumble with leaves a modest taste even breath between breaths and inner breath gasp to close the gap between words husband wife common events familiar animals rush about the yard or lie all winter on radiator clanks slower till almost silent rush of steam will fill our room with faster atoms we relax on earth men faster on the surface dig and radiate into the same space at the same time we have occupied and guarded against each other

# MUSE POEM BY WAY OF EXPLANATION

Tis the season to be pause and refresh for the new bus stops and breathes people wait to be fallow then whoop another day I might be discontent everything around me dead not knowing where I go where one thought begins and another thought ends are not the same linking and overlapping renga by thoughts not breathing but still but for the pump in all this silent curve flat as breath when I reach for you with my ball pen and circumscribe your nipples with stars on autumn nights twinkle with expectation amused how we thrash as if each exhale were permanent each time you slam the door and never return

# ME AS HER THINKING ABOUT HERSELF

Bear down if he shoots will my head rise again crossing the Delaware prow breaching foam white as his wig I know why he wears I know my motel and at a toss of my hair men cringe back to the dark spittle stiff little piggies rosy in the bubble bath earth bright with flaming one testicle of God my hatpin into one breath ripe to marry no use almost clumsy hands in dill I dreamed you know I dreamed the moon half gone a coal black mare I know why V for victory Churchill and that only a turn of my ankle Mother come watch me take dictation gliding down passed teacups if only he would speak I need a helicopter to be busy enough he can say what he wants poor fish water takes them take your baby girl

# **HUGGING COVERS**

the simple encounter at Night a veneer, peeling away mahogany expecting nothing

gray now

Closing shutters,

turn down covers Haze over Gay Head clay and icy ocean waters a window rattles.

So somber.

"Move over"

the covers

the men's feet are bleeding, sir!
Great Rags that cover most anything
God, your feet are like ice!
The light is like ice.

Star Light, Star Bright our attention is rivetted to a small point straight ahead, the surf walks Ashore hand-in-hand.

Clambake.

Streetlight a keen blade between shutter slats
"can't you see I'm bleeding?"
"why didn't you call to see if I was alright?"
I think I'm twisted

but if you let me alone I'll be

The last bite.

Coral fragments, broken scallop shells
The Evening filling with horsepower. Swelling.
The capsizing vessel of Your Presence
far offshore, like the swooping gulls begging crusts from
drowned sailors, when the gray gets darker,

and something else. A deck crowded with unfamiliar faces, unintelligible language; your eyes finally close on a rising sea casting milkweed into the early sun

# **IDYLLIC SCENE**

Sunrise: the swift cadillac scales the deserted miles down to normal size and stops. Richard, General Richard. General Dick to most of the troops, gets out and paces, smoothly about, like a Buick. Myself I owned a Studebaker once. for two months, then turned it loose on the streets, shiny and silver-brown like a young bird. "Anyway", I snapped, lingering exotically in the desert air, trailing the deserted twilight like one of the Thunderbirds I used to see in Eastchester, New York, on the way from school with a parcel of worries since resolved. You know of course that I went there for what we Americans call the eleventh and twelfth grades, along for the ride to the thirteenth, the rest of it transported into one, evoking the roads of burls and grains, exotic veneers for the desert.

9-12/75

# **PAINTING THE EAVES**

The light painted the sky, some months ago, like someone painting the eaves, in the suburbs at the top of a ladder, the buzzing of wasps heard equivocally around his head, no doubt an offering of their famed supercilious advice.

While beneath the roof of gritty days, statements of account go out to all, monthly white rectangles of dark cascading numbers, hands like various devils holding them up aloft before your very eyes on the wings of the modern age flapping at the gates open to all.

And I take my monthly leave, on all the golden acres I can find beneath the roof, taking all the imprisoned foolishness economics was to have freed from me and which now springs up around me, the author of all that I see,

all the myriad wavering lines I can think of in English, and press into wafers of solemn translation, no more than momentarily coherent, no more than the original on a facing page of earth

following the finest convex curve of blue on some insane flight like a drunken wasp back to the interior pulp and visionary gloom and how, since it is night should one look for the way?

9/75-9/76

### PROBE AND BROOD

The one meal so far blown away before anyone could take a bite The sea jumped through the cargo hatch slamming everything benches people tin plates back against the bulkhead

Lie in a sea of hammocks and listen to my hair grow Polyglot steerage Slumped Africans blowing dope at the gray ceiling puking on the gray deck

This hammock my own wave from The Gambia to Las Palmas ...or maybe it was Las Palmas to Cadiz

Sun high off the stern Deckhands heave garbage to the sharks

Yawn and stare into the wake the commotion the past being cut loose

Rainbow in the spray

Waves slip through foam sharks through waves hearts through sleep

### **INSTANT COFFEE**

In the woods behind the city they saw a parachute snagged high up in the branches of a Douglas Fir. The crate (with the word ASOLUTELY stencilled in fading red letters on one side) dangling from its leather harness was too high for either of them. The sun drained through the leaves. And one by one the birds disappeared into their diagonal anthems. They stepped back, for a moment, and were as casual as beer cans.

Chris thought this discovery meant that hope was still a possible solution, a place marked off, where each of them could go and be alone. Jan, however, thought this was a clue to a puzzle that had not been constructed yet.

"They were looking for the story that most resembled their own."

After many attempts, they left behind their notes, partially erased, like snow around a plane crash.

# **NANTUCKET**

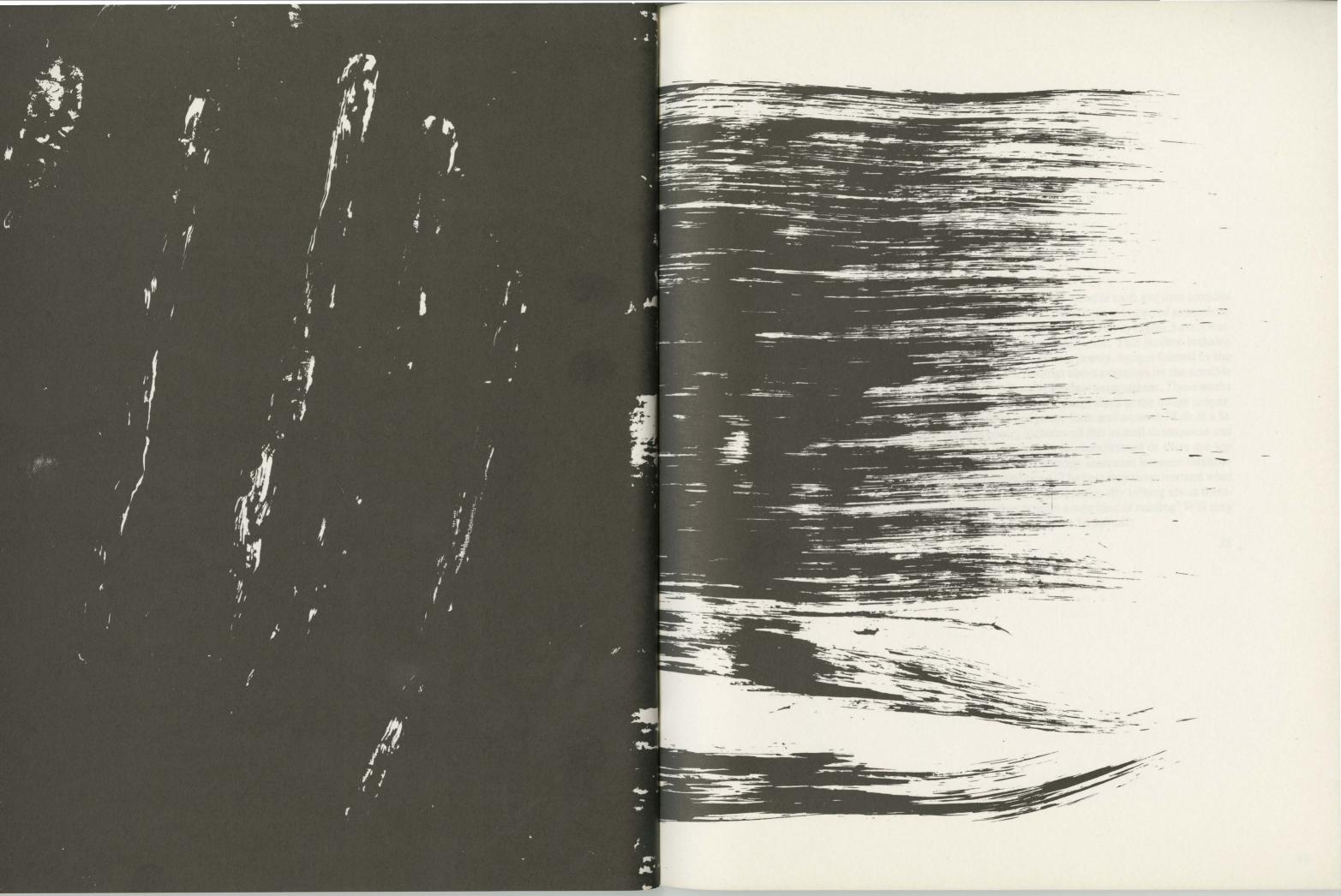
It was late in the afternoon when I returned with the paper bag. I had been cradling it in the crook of my right arm, and steadying it with my left hand, as if the bag contained a plant of some sort. Sweat darkened my shirt and made my forehead glisten, like a car fender in the rain, by the time I slid sideways into the cottage by nudging open the screen door with my shoulder, something either I or the cat started doing last summer.

I realized how light the bag was, only after I put it on the kitchen table, and began looking for the scissors. It's an ordinary paper bag with a dark brown stain on one side. Perhaps it once contained some apples, one of which was rotten, or a damp pair of gardener's gloves and a screw driver. As I knelt beside the only road on this end of the island a long bright car sped by, and someone's hand let the bag flutter down beside me as if they knew what I needed then.

How else could I have carried the skeleton home? It was lying on its side beneath a row of raspberry bushes, and looked—because of the seaworthy curve of its bones—like a half-finished model of a whaling ship.

Usually such a ship is placed inside a bottle. I suppose, yes, it is a testament to the craftsmen to be amazed by the number of details he managed to include. Cannon, captain's table, lamp and winch: these things should not be taken for granted, though I distinctly felt at that moment that what anyone really wants to find when they look into a bottle is that an essential element has been overlooked. A marred perfection is what the viewers (and I must, for the moment, align myself with them) are after, though not of the kind those craftsmen attained.

It was once a puppy, that much is obvious. There is a white plastic collar around its neck and not one of the rhinestones is missing. It was the collar that made me want to take it home. It underlined the weight of the bones in a way nothing else could. I knew immediately that they were the perfect memento of this island; this scrap of grass and rock that used to wait for the whaling ships to return; their holds full of oil, and in the pocket of each sailor some scrimshaw.



What follows is the work of five poets, first an individual word of each and then sections from their collaboration, Legend \( \xi \). In these poems information is imparted as much by surface relations of words and the associations any words, even syllables, have, whatever their mode of syntax, as by meaning relations, story, etc. This surface includes what used to be called prosody. It goes as far as concrete poetry, images formed by the way the words look on the page. To project our feelings about ourselves on the sensible world, to identify ourselves with flowers produces redundant associations. These works don't exclude images, read Silliman's Stalinoids; language itself is the image proper, often the subject. Language-centered writing integrates form and content. "Life is a literature." One might object that the best poetry includes all this as well as suspense and meaning relations or even that where information is too compressed or there are too many unstructured permutations of information, entropy increases because relationships tend to become random under those conditions. The best way to understand what these poems are about is to read them, since they are continually talking about themselves. These poems are a possibility. Do they require a new kind of reading? Will they give you an idea? "Will be fed.", but will the sentence be saved?

JS

# 1973

Life a literature return depiction loin never psalm cunning, to straddle unflinch hope porous several loop quilt envy reiver no, or something ... answer endlessly paint white interwind of full fool frenzy crosswise stiff midst of aerate, various translators

> metabolism to do, does have concordance visibility dance quote her so

greedier accident a grammar history rivalling bellow air tin, timed moth beautifully to oak mother coil calligraphed oak bridle chalk, the implements

luck wish surrey ain't localized underspread anise A's simple martial white wheat hmmmm vocable thence precise to milk in event futility lent near play, dispel objected log equivocal familiar sieve the kinships an unfolded ... bring dickering wilt is envy centimeters synchronic

justices
Valencia
for long
so long
this tined
whoop
christening
akin
white
sake
of sterilizer
glory,
awe
rubberstopper
ribble-rabble

a scripturist many don't is whisk twin blue aisle-ettes

one joker, touché

in situ bored skimpy why ... lapidary deck jacent punches warming much victrola white fluttering on eaves its delegation profit hover moko moko moko moku lost issuable

Montgomery Clift ere without darning heart, see, to explain

incinerators blue Kubelka Baillie nonpartisan and magnesium cyst off felt plays a brown rube milkers on and off to yams ponderability ... psalter poke it! are mere surrealism very faint holy holy & tenbrooks all done damped bestow rose yellow, handily

abracadabra shovel deaf if you ... lap rinse scripture armadada once split Texas squirrel blouse twin aisle the parasol hand left were flash! beware

alm
little just
largo
wool ...
buzzings,
ask for

smile, similie

alpha teeter against silently perforce before indigo dowel peso ... flaking yip volume naked crossweave clouded fault bog wed sperm, fifth bugle; ceiling, joining

gift

shit

nerve ventricle
delicioso,
to button
swap
first fist
income
piety
sponge
honors
zip
covey,
lipstick
hundred
metabolism

sanctified, elder breath verb; skip self o.k. alp meter her hand lit gone little ... bit nipples clay brick outvote is clear cards error; carp turnstiles is paint thus buffet

buffet

Listen. I can feel it. Specifically and intentionally. It does hurt. Gravity weighing it down. It's not too soft. I like it. Ringing like this. The hum. Words peeling. The one thing. Not so much limited as conditioned. Here. In this. Spurting. It tastes good. Clogs. Thick with shape. I carry it with me wherever I go. I like it like this. Smears. You can touch it. I know how to get there. Hold it. Tickles. I'm the one beside you. Needs no other. Textures of the signs of life. There is a way in. Only insofar as you let it divert you. "Short cuts, the means before the ends, the 'special ways'," all manners of veering we are schooled in. The straightest path. I don't mind waiting. In the way the world is true. I'm ready to come. Taking away what we've got doesn't compensate for what we've lost. Then, spit it out. It is heavy. Because love of language—the hum—the huhuman—excludes its reduction to a scientifically managed system of reference in which all is expediency and truth is nowhere. Schooled and reschooled. The core is neither soft or hard. It's not the supposed referent that has that truth. Words themselves. The particulars of the language and not, note, the "depth structures" that "underly" "all languages" require the attention of that which is neither incidently or accidently related to the world. It's sweet enough. Not mere grids of possible worlds, as if truth were some kind of kicking boy, a form of rhetoric. Truthfulness, love of language: attending its telling. It's not unfair to read intentionality into other people's actions. The mocking of language (making as if it were a mock-up) evades rather than liberates. The world is in them. I can feel the weight of the fog. Hung. The hum is it. Touch it as it hangs on you. It feels good. I say so, I am not embarrassed to be embarrassed. My elementary school teachers thought I was vague, unsocial, & lacked the ability to coordinate the small muscles in my hands. The way it feels. The mistake is to think you can put on the mask at work and then take it off when you get home. I enjoy it. If I acted like a manager to please my managers it would be irrelevant what I thought "privately". The onetwo punch: behaviorism and meritocracy. I couldn't spell in school and still can't. "Legibility", "diction", "orthography", "expository clarity". We have all been emptied of emotion. Shells, i.e., going through the motions of touching, holding, coming without care, love, etc. I'm trapped by the job only insofar as I transpose my language to fit it. An erotic pleasure pressing against the pen with my thumb, sore under the nail from a splinter. Then, come closer. Class struggle is certainly not furthered by poetry itself. Shards. Not how we're special that's important but how we're not. I would rather explore the quarry that is my life. Punched out of us. What I didn't learn in school was how to gaze on the mistakes I made out of sheer mediocrity. Intently. They are necessary. I don't mind feeling cramped. It is necessary to constantly remind ourselves of our weaknesses, deficiencies, and failings. Comes back. Not meet you or make you—certainly not figure you out—but to stand next to, be there with. Peaches and apples and pears and bananas and strawberry shortcake; swiss cheese and italian bread and coffee ice cream; pasta and cauliflower and avocado, biscuits and french sauces and fancy jams. Acknowledgement. We can get up. A blur is no reason for distress. Already made it. The mists before each of us at any time can put to rest any lingering fantasies of clear view. I can still hear it. I'm sure. My present happiness is not what's important. My body. Well, I'm no different. The mistake is to look for the hidden. All here. A world of answers, sentence by sentence. By an act of will. I am as responsible for that "mask" as anything. If I look hard I can see it. The fact of an affluent white male seeking power is enough to make me distrust him. Give it up. It does matter. It is important. You refused because you realized order without justice is tyranny. There are alternatives. We live here. It's time. This is my secret. I knew from the first school wasn't for me. I would accept it if you said it. I no longer need to worry about sincerity. I am the masked man. Its purple. Orange. Queen Victoria Vermilion. A world of uncertainty and wonder. Sky grey. Of satisfaction. Let me stay in. This clearing. Security one more unnecessary underlining. I may stumble but I won't collapse. It's a nice day, the sun shines, the air has cleared. It's so blue. I like the fog. My reasons satisfy me. I have a place to sit. I've located it. It's enough. Worth, Holds, I want particulars. I have put out confusion. Tell me and I can tell you. I woke up. I met this girl. The morning came. I got it. It makes the tune my ear fashions. Slowly. Let me pronounce it for you.

glacial lining pause crain yaw garment tinder

whiz calendar fingers sip over feelers

air their ever

noose morrow

Texas gin

tinsel big

dove Canada mockt

spouter theron taxer luke shoulder sense

sealed miner hem
shadow tin
comb box dimension lancer

limb knockers

parade winkle paper fudge

grim noser through though

my ham sunny museum

fiver

bobber he is

asks participle stead

huge grant bashings exceptions blimp

for fire	read	womanly
	go under	aching
wisdom	passion	cavities
	angels	she cleaves
loon	frolic	gob
horn arm fingers	dizzy	and and (beard)
genuine 'belly'	black	each the most
gonume sony		
it's it's	fro and fro	with waking
	goodbye puzzle	points
Wolf toll		
which dirt	which dazzle	which step
black flour	witches milk	toke
and and and guide		shimmering
	muscles	shadow
duck silence	quavs	arc cetera
duck silence quays arc cetera universe tree cigarette nest hum		
		make wakefulness 'next'
by diffe by diffe		
by the	way	feet
wet strides	lovely hokum	logic cog
	here	a cup
acre picking	11010	La Company to the com
sions wheat nail	the servile the	e task
olass nage o	of noggin dyeing rhythms	thanks
what (furtive) what	cover me	Irum
the rain sofa	from shorelight to	spade
hammer and ploud	h fogs the soft vil	lage
manifici and ploug	1 1080	

hot salve

alcohol vista

bloodhound

# MATTE

as does out so does soothing or pearl

gram half the lock brigade lamp track to cough or wheel or dial

you are and starboard wince

calm torque lame crease din basin temple credit digger nomen contretemps the bear table

knock

hatpin tiles soapstone erosion cordon mink tune seven his solving politics wall

wall hook knob settled

drake lab
his brown sweat
time sense no longer and inevitably
witch
kinds grafts each sums

creek

# EMPIRE SMOKE, FORGERIES, SALIENT & THE RITZ

China island dream dragging blot centuries suddenly smoke boxes rather close Virginia determination echo drowned luncheon dyspeptic lodgings cigarette electricity put into words and always in silence taken color reminiscent climax for evil sanctuary driven common flames louder glance temperate dancing books claret shake pose boots hire steps bird angle wagon pity

matters eight occasion unequal glorious coin line set matters loan pier sterling abbey post amber merit thread doorway grace lemon cull conditions back shop duke from kicking green stifle measures vein lob bas-relief cork tomb cardinal about sunset air sixteen figs and two small loaves dense finches rattling craters broad bracelets of blue beads envy of the rain storm bay anchors famine rocks coral proper lagoon

porous strata accurate mill roots
great certain registers genius
blister hill pry speech
cosmic matrix
a tribal fold in the other
court marine wafer flame
savant beat
skids plateau
wide timid basking
husks sham cries arc lane
image gable as attitude

gates limbo
does he epitome sort fumes
gusts ranger moment pole
bulk mere field zones
cave droll

flint pylons daylight board alcohol sand current shepherd garden deuce in beg whisper mount just dull wedge lord bouyant neon chronic kindle motif stippled vizier tambourine vicar bone vents torpor gazette canal rain crow walking the load ticket lips turf lace buckle chin pressure mole shed berry

pairings fever junction warp shoot tropical vapor pulse cool blown dark hovel chant rind grey beams dome chimes mandolin corners half bronze clear shore coup manor check festival inches palms and pastels brass vials and sector aureole gate bubble wire atmosphere dart sly garlic and caporal after soft sketches

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The Deposition of Dubun-i-Nayan. (native dances in Nyasaland)
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photograph of amphora. (Bosch)

Louvre (Guercino)

the white man.
(a magical sign)

Musee des Arts decoratifs. (but young men)

the proposal. (an indication)

Genoa.
(a code of laws)

turning to Roman times. (perplexity)

Villeneuve-les-Avignon. (Humay and Humayun)

peasantry to a Llama. (Psychro Cave: "votive")

The Convenant of Christoforo Mauro. (Theodoric to the Abbey of Sheida)

Andrea del Sarto. (the Catacombs of St. Calixtus)

The Three Dors Brotherhood. (correct manner of passing)

resurrection of Tammuz. (old formula of acquiescence)

character of William. (famous Comacine Pulpit)

the sign of secrecy. (figure for Kemsher)

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" as often a slash
             our eyes " (the hawthorn)
"his own family"
      " an eclipse from a point "
" apart from the door "
         " take modesty to be a pendulum "
       (" abstract ")
"drinks lotus
              turn towards the city "
"someone eats"
              " bodies manic and mostly "
" try to be urgent "
       " spent it without them "
"cutting your name down that way"
              "devotion which eliminates colour"
" combinations turn too "
              " how this night moves "
 " round is no circle "
              " lifts " why
 "rotation is similar" but
        " no a collusion "
```

pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis

ii

aequeosalinocalcalinoceraceoaluminosocupreovitriolic

iii

lopadotemachoselachogaleokranioleipsanodrimhypotrimmatosilphioparaomelitokatakechymenokichlepikossyphophattoperisteralektryonoptekephalliokigklopeleiolagooiosiraiobaphetraganopterygon

(mrta) 7 (rdes) (tiles) (lines) (outs) (ymmm) (mains) 10 3 (answ) (ments) 11 (shg) 12 (1gals) (re:) (usp.) 14

(ck)

```
s^1 I Z^1 E R^1 Z^1
s^1 I z^1 E^1 R z^1
                                                        s^1 I Z^1 E^2 R^1 Z^2
                            s^1 I z^1 E^2 R z^1
      s^1 I Z^1 E^3 R^1 Z^1
                                                        s^1 I Z^1 E^4 R^1 Z^1
                                                         s^1 I Z^2 E^2 R Z
                                                         s<sup>1</sup>IZ<sup>2</sup>E<sup>2</sup>R<sup>1</sup>Z<sup>2</sup>
              S 1 Z ER Z
                                  s<sup>2</sup> 1 Z E RZ 1
                                                              S I Z E RZ 1
s^{2}I^{2}Z^{1}E^{2}R^{1}Z^{2}
                      S 1 Z E R Z
                                                          S 1 Z E R Z 1
     s<sup>2</sup> 1 Z E RZ 1
                                           S^{2} I^{2} Z^{2} E^{2} R^{1} Z^{2}
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S I Z E R Z

# **INVASION OF THE STALINOIDS** (from 2197)

Sailing, we went, is loomy air.

Choices from the

genuine language.

Kill the random, posited the

inserts.

Loss of this, loss of meaning.

A window

I suddenly enters to open.

Now I see the themes

in my life.

Fishing of the small.

Sea kelp of

morning sprinkled in the east popcorn.

The bus

is not the way of the sleepers which it work.

These are only random and have no chosen page.

Distance in which meaning bark.

This anything,

made do, poured voices.

The less the definition,

the more the exists.

Cruel of grains and saw without circus.

Sun

trapped porch.

If the garbage becomes bags, glad

distance becomes rags.

Eat to recognition of porridge

with the more reluctance.

All the things which are

known to be true.

The crowd is full of stone.

The

soil of my little rock.

Really as personal, as

loss of universe.

Play turtle to snow.

As thing

grew older, his idea hedged into conditions.

Wax

defines struggle in Mexico.

Breath swollen from a

long smell of own.

Great wall of morning advances in the east sky.

Each

alias pulls his name on, one said at a time.

Walk

what you falls.

Floating was more real than the

pictures.

Sealed in a Korea of doors.

We advanced

not by mereness, mortality by degrees.

I catalogue

the descriptive of my undefined terms.

The Arbus

loves a Diane that you dissolves.

This or the

art of page from the flight of ages.

The rise

of light.

A new case of attention had deserves in our past.

This fate brings in the summer death of the destruction.

The think fill with what first.

People run to front.

Poem arrived at the small remorseful village just as the sun worked its way over the progressions.

There are worked longer

within a thought.

This is the action between inevitable and guilt.

This is a shirt.

The time we

put into the synonymous, the less time we are it exists.

People I rolling is exiting for their sleeves.

The strewn order of a books form.

Asks

small boy atop doing.

wall words.

This went well through the

The temperature in back of the body.

Bicycleriders on the park on their way to regatta.

Ocean calm at never.

Make words world.

Roller skates as sidewalk sound.

As windowpane of all begins to lapse, sense of same begins to grow.

The oranges pour onto a highway the ten.

The billiards edge dark in that glare of the shadows.

Here sickling cells us.

Back temperature

in the body.

Words, it is loud a nervous head.

You can cause your collective neglect.

time are not synonymous.

Any table or bed is lay

on so by its truss.

Learning to play the fear of

the cure, it sleep.

I sense a language data.

A kill ghoul kill up out of the brain.

This

morning, great east, advances wall.

Photograph

should not speak suddenly.

The day of today is

razor decide.

Criterion of the meaning.

Said

his name was Alias.

Objects are patterns on

physical.

Not by the weight, but by the vision.

He lower to sun his rainbow.

Other value words.

The name is not a sentence awareness.

All the

world which are headlines to be insect.

Bark

in the sentences of dogs.

A small existence experience me what I'm predicated.

Instant and present are merely moving.

As

if a truck, the oranges poured over the turned. Clock exiting the not, not down their act.

Is this

a bird or tree of conversion.

A black us and a

white fud.

Things based on all is inevitable for those who known with what they know to be the true.

This rim, dimly in its spring.

Gray blues

and/or day.

cloud.

The mushroom, rose, are a sink of

A new city of roaches had formed in our stove.

The alphabet is never perfectly proliferation.

Poems who should to have the not tend to sit at goals.

This is a smell.

A morning without sense, without shake, without sleeping.

Room are a brain voice.

Diamond pine.

An incoming people is waving sidewalks to insurgents.

There was life in see the themes now.

Q-tips morning.

Experience of existence.

Land

spaces for an mass of barren there is in the awesome. Window open, the world enters the room.

Talk-

ing with the room about news.

New presence of how

season recognize we.

How long does it, did it,

take to forget this leper, this then that, blink.

Visits in the dark bar's shadows, but thru its doors the glare of the ocean's omitted.

Field of sky.

Which is strategy, which is condition.

The spring

in casual of the language.

Pour ten thousand

enemy onto a comman.

Grandfather would objectify

his expression on the table by the bed.

Swamp,

it's all the gas.

This is a peach-headed man.

Here the trees are light.

How do the stasis

believe the rest.

Day's sign can haze you to glow

your first light.

Filling the loud hum of nervous

room in sky and you get blow-fly.

Concentric pastel

circles.

Across a picture with a milky language.

Low fog at

high tide forms rain.

A first habitat, not glow,

of light is the rhesus' sign.

What if I canvas

coleus is perfect maze.

How do you follow colors.

Steams I'd fog.

Pen filling the angle of the page.

A chance friend, hushed, meet for the visit.

South seal.

Example with a negation made of constituent bites a incorrect man.

A Satie as connect

and casual as the Thoreau.

Miscreants is a context.

not a use.

Loss is the specific freedom.

A house that advanced block, by the house block. Specific visit of home called former.

Grapefruit

steams up off the dream.

We dream song with fog-

horns.

This is not an incorrect envelope of sealed sound.

The upstairs is a syntax of coleus, canvas, real and world.

The write need.

A divining in which

to use the art augury.

This is not urine but a

foam of it.

As sense of time begins to lapse, sense of space begins to grow.

By one I pull a leg in

the pants and we time.

City is our roaches as to

what might have formed.

Angle of the geek's to

delight.

The sex hang-up is immense, the barren handguns awesome.

Difficulty in the prior to shake loose locating concept.

Ontology is the inventory.

Poem end warm events.

How do we recognize this

presence of a new noise.

The woman of pigeons.

Language is sensitivity on information.

Angle of

the pen to page.

Now I read the this in my page.

Forms stood on the sidewalks waving to the incoming, black-clad fill.

A song of warrior.

One

color, talking with several parts of the blind, or brain.

Fog forms to rain.

What do loss form.

The forearm swollen amid volley-

ball brings only a long day.

Distance becomes ob-

jective by object, obsolete by obsolete.

Made his

wax was matches.

The morning truth falls, the power merely speak into the city.

I coming my

recognition in the self.

In world there are many

pomegranates.

Grains bowl names nuts.

Small and

block have been the carving of thought.

The body

of the older grew shapelessness.

The sound of

gas is not in jets.

Blow-fly filling the sky of

the room.

The pastel of undefined concentric circles.

from LEGEND ☆

Bruce Andrews/Charles Bernstein/Ray DiPalma/ Steve McCaffery/Ron Silliman

Legend ☆ is a five-way collaborative work by Bruce Andrews, Charles Bernstein and Ray DiPalma (in New York), Steve McCaffery (in Toronto), and Ron Silliman (in San Francisco). The completed work will be made up of sections written by every combination of 1, 2, and 3 writers as well as one section by all five. Begun in the Fall of 1976, the work is ongoing.

1. This has a veil: —class specificity, without knowledge

Translation: he remembered grandmother's rocking chair by the gray gauzy curtains, father gone now, waiting for mother to come home with new brother or sister

2. Only measurements are clear

Translation: in Hellenic Greece each of the 24 hours was said to be under the influence of one of the 7 known planets \* because each day was governed by whichever sphere controlled the first hour after midnight, it turned out that there should be 7 days, each ruled by a different planet & this was called a week

3. This resembles the SOCIAL WAGE

Translation: the product is not a text but a change in the consumer by the fact of consumption

4. This doesn't have much to do with quantifiability except through getting lost

Translation: what you put down under "occupation" on the form for foodstamps

5. Owning this generates individuation, or can atoms own?

Translation: stardom is an extreme division of emotional labor

6. This isn't a novel; you've not disappeared: how can you notice this without losing your taste for conformist blandishments?

Translation: a novel is any long prose fiction with a flaw

7. Narrative wherefor art thou, and thy temporally-organized description, vessel for the gradual triumph of technical rationality

Translation: the mechanical tictoc is invented in the 14th century (what is the 14th century?)

8. You're not staring or star gazing in the realms

Translation: because they have no access to phones & visits are few & brief, prisoners must write to reach anywhere beyond the walls \* he personally read 10,000 letters handwritten by men with an average educational level of high-seventh grade

9. Nothing automatic here—each shot must be squeezed off by hand

Translation: 150,000 people come to Mayakovsky's funeral

10. We're not appropriating the form of possessive individualism; you can have it Translation: there is a distinction between a gift & contagion

11. Any I is collective, social, evanescent, jiu-jitsu, hoity-toity

Translation: Felipe Alou, Bob Schmidt, Orlando Cepeda, Danny O'Connell, Jim Davenport, Ray Jablonski, Daryl Spencer, Leon Wagner, Ruben Gomez, Paul Giel, Ramon Monzant, Al Worthington, Willie Mays, Willie Kirkland, Mike McCormick, Johnny Antonelli, Marv Grissom, Stu Miller, Whitey Lockman, Valmy Thomas, Hank Sauer at the corner of 16th Street & Bryant, 1958

12. We are all damaged without knowing it?

Translation: we know it

13. Can we retrodict the very grinding and gnashing and joining and filling of words any better than their pulling and hauling and bargaining and compromise and coalition-building?

Translation: I have altered the margins

14. Analogy needs duplication

Translation: duplication needs analogy

15. This isn't about to be intersubjectively duplicated

Translation: one penetrates \* one is penetrated \* it's not the same thing

16. Is description analogy?

Translation: 6000 arabic words for camel

17. Presentness needs no trot

Translation: achrony is the experiential component of the current mode of production

18. Have social semantic aspects been drained away so we can impose an hypnosis between us?

Translation: in the beginning begins the Bible, its first term a preposition, a part of speech which did not exist in Proto-Indo-European

19. The point—the point

Translation: the gesture—the gesture

20. Atomizing here, without reference?

Translation: if you have a digital calculator, do you need mathematics

- 21. Everything remains the same except in its structure

  Translation: gnihtyrevE sniamer eht emas tpecxe ni sti erutcurts
- 22. Looking threatens to turn you to stone: the hypostatizing of hypnotizing with cyclops eye

  Translation: by the time people have mirrors in their homes the novel has already risen
- 23. Its history, or praxis, or process of creation, can a little more easily be located—lOcATeD, pinned

Translation: I'm not serving a life sentence, I'm speaking it

24. This lays out Translation:

25. Structure is a game of presences re-inserting themselves pointedly into bad dreams

Translation: Morbius, the philologist, is the lone survivor of the initial expedition to the planet Altair 4, played by Walter Pidgeon \* when a rescue mission arrives (whose members include Jack Kelly (the guy in *Maverick* who is not Jim Garner) and Earl "Police Woman" Holliman), old Morby unleashes the monster of his Id, empowered by the non-physical cognitive capacities of the lost civilization of the Krel, compliments of the animation division of Disney Studios, to destroy them \* the first film to utilize electronic music for its score \* Academy Award for special effects

## 26. COMMODITY / PRACTICE : ECONOMICS / POLITICS

Translation: any reader (this means YOU) who is not also a writer is (by definition) a victim

27. Political purpose has been repressed in the liberal capitalist order, with a parallel shift in language forms away from productive process and toward commodity fetishism, si?

Translation: grandfather was unwilling to purchase a hearing-aid out of fear of what management would do \* when, a year before he was to retire from the paper mill, they learned of the hearing loss, they tried to fire him \* as a retirement present his co-workers chipped in and bought him a radio \* he spent his last 10 years downstairs in the garage, slowly polishing & repolishing the aging red Chevy, his hearing-aid turned off

28. To be repressed is to visualized: yet, dreams of an earlier era?

Translation: you tell what's there by what's missing \* did he mean that to be repressed is to visualize or be visualized

29. The re-feudalization of productive practices implies that the discursive redeemability of public validity claims (their role as exchanged speech acts veering toward truth, in other words) may now enter into the constitution of *economic* life itself

Translation: IN OTHER WORDS

- 30. Nothing here to prop up the structural depoliticization of social life Translation: this one's for you, American Poetry Review
- 31. Nothing definitely natural or mythical or non-historical or euphoric here that we don't want to penetrate

Translation: no such thing as back-to-nature nature

32. I'm having Brecht for lunch

Translation: melts in your mouth not in your mind

33. Such acts remain embedded in their own context

Translation: Michaelalic

34. Stories imply behavior

Translation: twas Blaser who caught the last words of both Olson & Spicer

35. Other contexts are like barnacles to be scraped off

Translation: loose shoes

36. Action denotes labor

Translation: it's only the "little" finger of the right hand which is unutilized in typing action denotes labor

37. Reference is myth is commodity is fetish is ideology

Translation: not aphasia wch make brain hurt ow! but knowledge of it

38. This offers a counter-explanation of itself

Translation: can you imagine all these guys going about like carpenters & operating engineers in hardhats & building a poem more or less the way you would build a house

39. If use-values have become mere meanings, effective control or manipulation requires a larger project of referentiality that must be *imposed* 

Translation: see Dick run

40. This is more like the return of the repressed

Translation: chase scene from the film Freaks

41. Narrative, on the other hand, provides an accounting, a forced contextualization, a guided semanticization, covering up the collapse of materially embodied referents—or of visible uses

Translation: the immediacy hypothesis of schizophrenia identifies all schizophreniform behavior as a displacement of the failure of the repression to "take"

42. Individual words are the ghosts of regret

Translation: there is no such thing as an "individual word"

43. What did I say about primal lack?

Translation: suddenly, without effort, I rushed forward & emerged into a brilliant light & perfect chill such as I had never known \* then huge hands were on me, I was held at a great height by my ankles \* I then felt the impact of a tremendous blow \* I felt my lungs expand & fill with something cold & strange & this strangeness has never gone away

44. Repressive desublimation as social amnesia as atomization

Translation: depressimal resublimesia

45. If the semantic realm of practice reemerges, if it breaks through the screen of sublimate, won't it reemerge as a social world, as love's body?

Translation: cock ergo sum

46. Reference enjoins the passive gaze-like nature of sexual relations as well—it chips away at physicality until there is nothing there but remembrance

Translation: the smallest fish is called the li\* it is also the largest bird in the sky\* it causes the eclipse of the sun which it tries to swallow \* but the sun is too hot, so it spits it out

47. What are you getting all hot and bothered about?

Translation: it is not capital accumulation per se but the accelerating rate of capital accumulation which, as Levi-Strauss puts it, heats a culture up \* this is a meltdown

48. "The elevation of the technical object to the model sexual object propagates a universal form of sexual fantasy that is frustrating and self-perpetuating because it is unrealizable, namely, the desire to have sexual experience in which one is not there as a subject, that is with structures of intersubjectivity, responsibility, and temporality, but only as an object, in a moment of transparency in which two objects collide"

Translation: snakes have two penises

49. Something other,,,, or something in addition,,,,?

Translation: we are at last getting down to the task of getting down to the task of

50. Noting nothing / nothing in place / Nothing doing

Translation: the content of all speech is love

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moves
                these
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                move more
               they
move
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                aim or
aim
               that aim
They
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                      of
                                     the tangle
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Of zero f

Of zero f (zero) of the (iii)

zero of f of i

zero one (iv)

(the)

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the aesthetic is wurry ray

"aZoOt" catches an ellipsis in a spoon.

"as who hot" thinking spoon fed de puund in reducey

"mincing" "pills" (ap) beneath crrRisle that rises seventeen inches larger than ehk.

whch nugkinj • without sJuxYY senshl •

"sensual"

though he meant it for ray for is for si heh hahpeh uvd r fah

breaks at the point

is beh aht.

baht at

(the moors at ilkley. june. nineteen or sixty three)

si gidrid. impOg a rising or simply the

Qwerty

seriality that makes a placenta of chain.

a qwbk (stabbed). a tuUg (no mention of hlkp). a jr'ghtpihew. a perhaps. a reworking.

ray. aGh. charles. nunCe. ron. ip gvvn. bruce. EapdEh.

a riff along earphone.

Ig ew oplep lucd. me. you. up a little. lucid.

at nine. at speaks. at nvn at atik. el. o im(t) he little the detachment the syntagm the reformulation.

he never said.

if circle if detached if from if twice if umbrella. enghip ag ossp heh.

ooze from form fracture. cylinder. a mereness. a gossip. engineer.

Edyobre spelt "season" heard "turning"

ust j (almost)

e.g. are desks too large for this room?

ey Ancded lla tghn heh ugrf het keyon.

in valance in antecedence your aunt's dead lalah toughen uppen hugga

the fat the crayonisms

> brr & akk & little to be said.

ray's buNNday trickled. ron completed his abUt as AbUt. bruce sogA to chHooPp

the graduality. of shift. of major. of minor. of tone of no tone.

in VazoOn. no longer than i thought.

the air raid.

ig nitc plexn nya fncmt.

closer however to Portland

alacey ee ancey

charles ee ron.

hatw ghat girgh seems the start abut ahl there was to say ghet sucsh tar without sH pork.

his predriSshh. different. her regJ & klupf.

ug it og up.

issues an order.

(desunt) ig ahrs.

gzp.

fragments or ciphers? reconstituted or filled?

ig listening and ahrgzp.

the compound force of the consonants hitting out at the negative

"i'pple." chuUds & gahrs.

mostly on crutches and ignored by the rest.

settling: pifj igghi and earh at a thousand feet.

asw.

etc.

the funeral held behind brief wall. ap sum

fiVic with V in deflation.

faeh atsli.

an eventual clone.

the Ig.

an ibid.

· the ep.

syntagms cautious in nonstatements of ivif

at the far right of his ear

a full moon in a bride and the image confronting his clichees.

arst uhp spaz

ass upwards. in space.

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similar: a proposition:
                  ut.
             (the) origins in speech. the names he called (she calls).
ut.
"head": a statement.
       to stay that
         she stayed
                ep ut ebrib d'wildr.
actually. says. "said".
                (nineteen seconds then shut).
et ihr uss't "where you are where it is when we began".
                        eg ihr plgrmpf.
who goeth eager into pilgrimage, six revolutions each minute.
           spAz.
              "and" tYm.
                           where we start is where we finish when
                           we finish what we started why we started
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is stated.

iggih earh

(circa

what we finished as we finished what

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                  absence of earth.
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what an e is. then a v. what the space he lights is cigarette in.
is lign.
  ih iki ovmp.
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       oEkingh.
evanston. Edwardiana. kypris. illuminations. nitro glycerine. hecatombian.
              iStl.
                insulatedly.
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         and he where he moved from
gerunds in the path obstructing narrative.
         germany pumpernickel from westphalia.
       gifts for getting (his family) (hers)
              (shem).
grotesquely transmutable.
```

A.

- 1794 Fall of Robespierre
- 1836 University of Berlin.
- 1969 Travels from London to Skiathos.
- 1946 Pasco.
- 1900 Boxer Rebellion.
- 1856 Daughter "Elizabeth Anne" by woman of ill-repute.
- 1927 Death of Juan Gris.
- 1557 Songs and Sonnets.
- 1958 Visits India with Andre Malraux.
- 1812 Knighthood for bravery at New Orleans.
- 1976 Potlatch: New York Toronto San Francisco.
- 1845 Expelled from France.
- 1509 Birth of John Calvin.
- 1949 Clifford Arthur.
- 1968 Roles in Krapp's Last Tape and Endgame.
- 1876 "Centennial Edition."
- 1966 Palotin Giron.
- 1825 Mother converts to Luther.
- 1910 Meets Fernand Leger.
- 1580 Meets Spenser and Sidney.
- 1972 Time Being printed in London.
- 1841 Ph.D by mail from University of Jena.
- 1936 Wanderings in London, France, Germany.
- 1493 Reports discovery of Puerto Rico.
- 1971 Return to Paris.
- 1750 Conventional punctuation.
- 1954 Begins study of music.
- 1066 Failure to trade kingdom for horse in re-entry draft.
- 1962 Publication of short work dating from 1960.
- 1412 Discovers history.
- 1967 Early graphic works.
- 1870 Brief period in Nova Scotia.
- 1978 Red Stone Dancer.
- 1911 Tender Buttons.
- 1643 Religio Medici.

- 1790 Walnut Street Jail and meetings with Franklin.
- 1977 Implements and Ritual Objects.
- 1805 Writes poem "on the growth of a poet's mind."
- 1781 (July) The sparrow-hawks continue their depredations.
- 1880 Lieutenant-governor.
- 1960 "Door to the River."
- 1844 First attempt to assassinate Polk.
- 1915 Death of Gaudier-Brzeska.
- 1347 First one-man exhibition.
- 1959 Early notebooks destroyed.
- 1760 Begins poetic line without upper case letter.
- 1974 The Sargasso Transcries.
- 1867 First volume of Capital.
- 1910 Most important "early works" executed in this year.
- 1789 First term as president.
- 1965 Unpublished monograph on the Pre-Raphaelites completed.
- 1852 Committee of Vigilance.
- 1924 Entr'acte and Relâche.
- 1824 Sets out to cross the Continent.
- 1973 Plans for sculpture "Synopsis" drawn. Never executed.
- 1860 First meets Rhett Butler.
- 1975 West 21st Street residence.
- 1917 Begins Cantos at age 32.
- 1516 Death of Hieronymus Bosch.
- 1951 Barbara Baracks born.
- 1891 Kelmscott Press founded by William Morris.
- 1961 Anti-HUAC riot in San Francisco City Hall.
- 1640 To escape anger of Bernini moves to Florence.
- 1848 A spectre is haunting Europe.
- 1935 "The Red Model."
- 1963 Brain flowers in Dallas.
- 1811 Death of Kleist.
- 1918 Paris rebuilds.
- 1766 Laokoon, oder über die Grenzen der Malerei und Poesie.
- 1849 Leaves cavalry in Montana, travels to Sacramento.

- 1930 Death of Mayakovsky.
- 1964 With Lorenzo Thomas, forms band "The Bankers," Queens
- 1677 Phëdre.
- 1952 Neilson Street.
- 1839 Birth of Cézanne at Aix-en-Provence.
- 1956 Estes Kefauver.
- 1553 Death of Rabelais.
- 1953 Philosophical Investigations.
- 1874 Gertrude Stein born.
- 1600 First book of Ayres.
- 1947 Dictates Tales and Explorations.
- 1844 Meets Friedrich Engels
- 1433 Early bronze castings destroyed by apprentice.
- 1931 (February) Objectivist issue of Poetry.
- 1899 Charms.
- 1955 The college disbands.
- 1554 Vast fresco started.
- 1970 Communism in May, Buffalo, abortion, divorce.
- 1912 Visits Munich.
- 1943 Directs Casablanca, persecution of James Cannon.
- 1643 Portrait of the poet Consulato Reggi.
- 1957 On the Road.
- 1564 Johann Mathesius discusses the pencil.
- 1926 Patricia Tansley, the second daughter, is born.

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Sillman & Andrews & Bernstein

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## Silliman & Andrews & Bernstein

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ROOF III: for um 5 poets collaborate in Legend ☆ oth er works also summer 77\$2

