

TUUMBA 17

SITTING UP,
STANDING,
TAKING STEPS

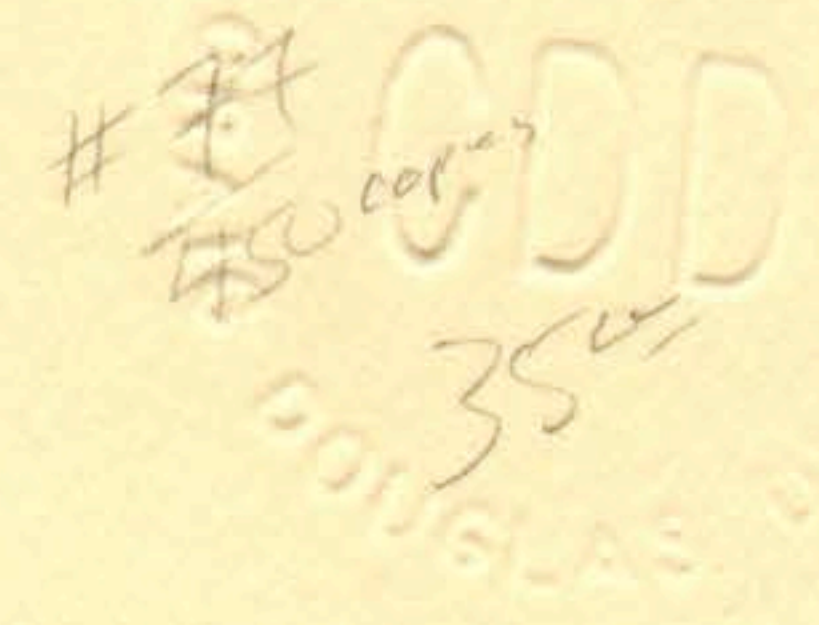
RON SILLIMAN



UC-4/R

GTS 101

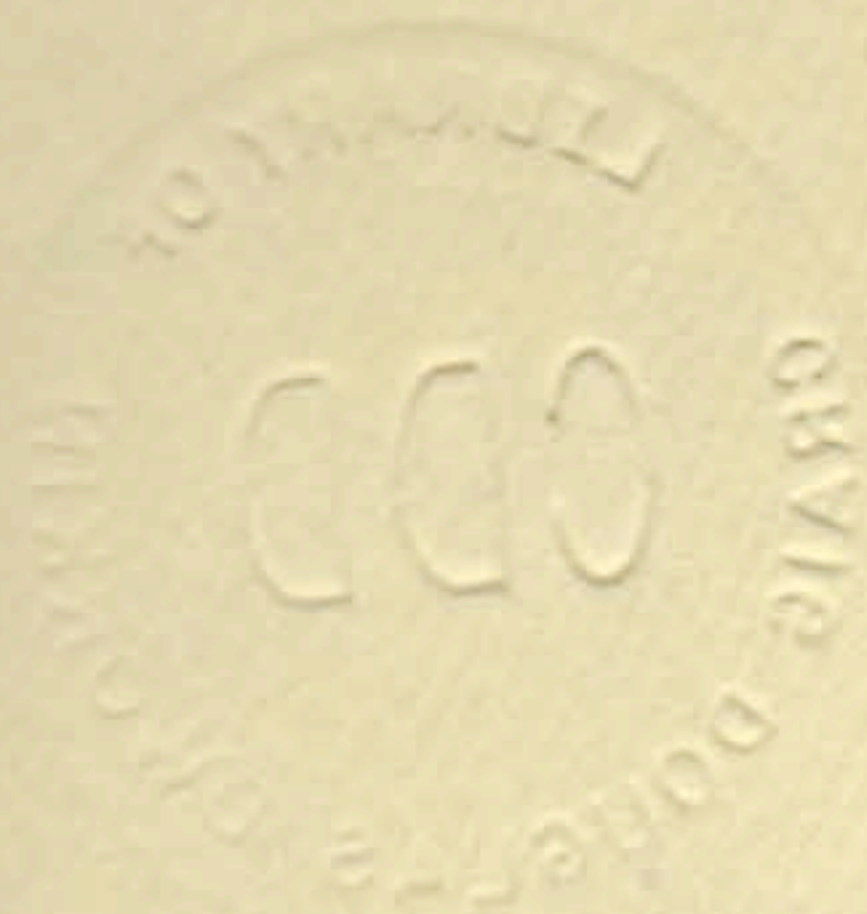
133730



SECTION 11
TAXES

FOR

...



**SITTING UP,
STANDING,
TAKING STEPS**

RON SILLIMAN

Printed at TUUMBA PRESS
as Tuumba 17
September 1978

copyright © 1978 by Ron Silliman

Cover illustration by Debra Fine Yohai

This project is supported by a grant from the National
Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D. C., a Federal Agency.

ISSN 0146 - 2083



High gray sky. A large wood table with only a green bottle of "white" Rhine wine atop it (empty). An open umbrella upside down in one corner of the room. Ritz crackers topped with cream cheese and, beside them, crayolas. Gray plastic bottle of lemon ammonia on its side on the green tile in back of the toilet. My red-and-black checked CPO jacket atop a guitar in my rocking chair. Butter on the knife. Dobermans and Danes. The walkin and his cutout. A callus around the ring. Slice of toast on a saucer on a corner of the wood table. The low fast foreign car. The girl with green eyes. The venetian blind. One day of Crash City. Water table. The fatal florist in the forest. The thickness of my mother's ankles. Poise of the pen. Yellow Buick. The numbers and kinds of irreducible acts. Cloud shadow on the still bay. Crips and walkies. Black sock. Extension and the nature of existence. The transfer point. Red orange. Solidity. Fog. The green felt-top table in the tavern light. The geometry of cues. His sister. The olive trees of Sacramento Street. Chipped cup. The submarine on the horizon in the sunset. State of null karma. Undefined descriptive

predicate. Little lobes. Some handsome hands. Statue of a dog with a fish in its mouth. Something about cowboys in bus depots. The real heat. Great sloping grove of clover. The bell curve. Woman in a pink blouse. Amber, ochre. The action faction or the praxis axis. Chapstick. Cheesy smell of a dog stool. Hiss of traffic. Sunset debris. Jackalope. Pudding cups. Bruise on her thigh. Crab grass. Eggplant in the shape of a face or dolphin. Blue bench. Prairie apple. Albino with a beard. Hard edge. Pornographic motherhood. Chess people. World behavior. Knuckle archives. Sausage. Saucer. Long legged women on platform, short skirts, streaks of blonde in their hair, lipstick a deep, deep red. Itch of the coccyx or the cuticle wall. A net of concrete atop the planet, streets and roads and boulevards. Oily leather skin of the shopping bag lady. Experimental sheep. Mouldy towel. Hair in a shag, with large white earrings. As tho under a footbridge. A small man in a big brimmed hat. In a heliport by the sea wall in the fog. A new white pen to write with. The bus to the suburbs. A store full of reptiles. Rows of white headstones. Toll bridge. The eyes of the bus driver in the rearview mirror. A small mole on the female stranger's upper lip. An old Chinese woman with black slacks on under her dress. Helicopter, harbor, filmy morning light. A green suit, a white shirt and a loud tie or a gray suit, a blue shirt and a striped, quiet tie. Three kinds of prose. Color films of dead people. Burned out buses among backlot dillweed, Military Ocean Terminal. Deer fetus wine of China. Pigeons in

the eaves of a Queen Anne's tower. All toes of identical length. Odor of stale soap, bus depot john. Abductor muscles. The bitterness of women. The problem of truth in fiction. Abandoned railroad cars on a siding by the rock quarry. Advanced life support unit. Geometry of the personal. Midget in a large felt hat. Fork lift. Abandoned industrial trackside cafeteria amid dillweed stalks. My droor thing. Corridor of condos. Post-nasal drip. Hot hamster. Sand in the notebook. A salt-water cave. Eroded ruins. The bend in the pelican's wing-spread. Algae in a tidepool. An old windowless house of concrete, its door rusted off, with nothing inside it but odor and an open safe. Pepper on the eggs. Jaws. One of several small silver bracelets. A thin layer of sand, a coarse film, in my nose and hair. Under a willow beside the pile of raked leaves, the lawn mower in the graveyard. Density or sleep. The Paradise Cafe. A small heap of grey, broken bird wings. Puka shell necklace. The woman with the shawl or the woman with the apple. The angle of the pile of unwashed plates. Red goose shoes. A terrible dirigible incident. Natural gas pipeline. Lubricated prophylactic. Legend of the Pony Express. Mid-morning. Dark stools. Rice paper wafer. Longer boat under the bridge. The brown boot. Bananas. This way. A linguistic emulsion. Feedback. Radial tires in the mud. The constant knocker. The bridge of the nose. A location or condition of the mind. Prodder. Curlews and herons in the lagoon at low tide, the red sky of night, sailor's delight, moss on the willow, shoes off, pebbles between

toes. Frigate. Ceramic blue star. Briar patch. Friend or lover. The long pier. A system, an argot. The window in the windsurfer's sail. Geese of the lagoon. Long shadows. A field of woven grass. A superficial, professional verbal exchange. Outdoor basketball courts as a form of sculpture. Sharp shadows on the fennel that constitute a description of dawn. Article-starved predicate. World of ski-boots. Root beer. Big damp grey dog. Panda plant, ice plant, wandering Jew. Along the coast, on cots, in coats. A warm new storm. Blue ink on a white page between red lines. Words after words. Chard. The loose goose. The late dawn of December. Duck soup. A cheeselike discharge in her vagina. The fat cat's flat hat. Glass beads, tortoise shell ring. Legendary bladder, legendary weak bladder. Stable, half-supple string of terms and relations. Hang glider. Forgotten sentence. Deep blue dome of sky above still grey plane of water. Between movies, not cinema, not films, not here, between movies. Condo door awning. A not-fat dalmation. Schizo. Things to know versus things to do. Ochre school bus. The objects of thought, qualities and relations. The chapter on things. Corn row hair style. Shower or storm. Bozos, yoyos, turkeys, geeks. Slope-shouldered fuckoff. Henry Africa's. Curlew, sandpiper, tern, gull, godwit. Swizzle stick. Cuticle. Static electricity. Mauve. Tow-away zone. Blue mailbox. Cabin cruiser. Itchy balls. Half-eaten apple. Helen Frankenthaler's newer works. The Jello word for the day. Spurs. A duck that looks just like Groucho. Banana-flavored taffy. Mirror image.

A fire in the oil fields. Motown. Spewn shrapnel-like remnants of a helicopter. Tripod. Cumshot. Certain, possible, impossible. During. Herons about a boat hull at low tide. Pink crayon, blue crayon. Fat black dog. Bloody earlobe. Faucets. A field of clover over there. The towers of the bridge. The pillars. Odor of paper. Orange and green quilt. Hair in an Afro-blowout. Golden saxophone. Key of C. Tail of an afghan. Vapor trail in a light blue sky. Trace of a vapor trail. Memory and imagination. New page. A park on a hillside. A valley full of water, a bay. Green and round and in pain. Toy boat. Kite in the shape of a moth. Gray day. Slow trombones. Red lines. Gentle smell of dust. Duck pond by the freeway. Bo Diddley's hat. The damaged guitar. Expository sentence. More than this. Walnut desk in foodstamp office. Halfhour of videotape. Boulevards. Studebaker. Blue-grey eyes. Not nouns. A series of ankles. An investment. Phil Whalen's "platter of little feet." His shaved head, light colored eye-brows, thin lips, wide ears. The precise odor of pavement. The fog before dawn. The missing felt-tip pen. The ability. Kidney beans, pinto. Inherent danger in. Ninth. Lithographers, associates. Spurs, chaps, myth. The inflamed hangnail. As big as. Red goose shoes. Watermelon tattoo. Hoosier state. Bean factory. Wart upon nose. Ice tea. Colorless dawn sky. Sloop. Verb. One mean mastiff. Tugrope. Slide guitar. Man of no fortune. Worm time. Macro-. Oat Willie's cappucino. Towards words. Determiner. Faucet. Tattoo of a watermelon. Light blue summer morning sky.

Swordfish. Seahorse. Recent problems in the general theory of karma. Revisionaries. His class origin versus his class stand. One rim job. Butch. A lad with an Afro blowout. A stinger. Number or doobie. Next to the last. Texaco, Arco, Exxon. Garden Street, Treat Street, Canty Lane, Highland Place. Tamal, Represa, Corona, Stormdrawer, Marion, Butner, Steilacoom, Sandstone, Redwing, Starke. Facials and manicures upstairs. Pronominal anaphor. The staggers, the shudders, the White House horrors. Alcatraz shade and blind. The hustle, the bump. Crash City. Neck, bridge, nut, fret. Meat rack. An attitude towards the verbal. An old man in a straw hat in the shade with a Dr. Pepper. Yellow mustard dispenser. Hotter, more hot. A deposit of red pepper on a lettuce leaf. Horny high school students. The politically conscious meter maid. Charred hill. Dry leaf. Cecil the seasick sea serpent, Rags the tiger. Neighbor. Burnt eucalyptus. The first poem about Kefir. Capitol of North Dakota. Turmoil. The sexually-active dental technician's very good friend's larger but younger Spaniel. A stairway to heaven. Nancy and Sally and Suzy. Kevin and Kirk. Kevin and Patty. Patty and Andy. Patty and Frank or Darrell. Tony and Roberta. Frank again and Nora and Eric. Richie and Joan and Carol. Aaron and a different Carol. Jesse and Sarah. Maxine or Ashleigh. Jeanne and Peter. Fame as a subject. Fame as an object. Mister tooth decay. Ferry terminal. Quarry. Hobo camp, the ranch. Population. Flouride. Peonson's bald head (pate). Cops or thieves or cops and thieves. The dry dock.

Bison, bison. Blue Capri. Still more pronominal anaphors. Her red fuzzy muff. Ambivalence, an autobiography. Good buddy. Bachelors together. Hoop, rim, backboard. Fine white smoke of a grass fire just east of San Quentin on the first day of July. Forgotten things. The headmaster's daughter. Low in tar. Mucous. The red scooter. Almond mask. His sock. Each new first time. Description, an invention. Slice of life pie. Marigolds. White white jumpsuit. Echoes. Concentration camps by the name of bantustans. Clarinet. At first. The day before Barbara's birthday, two before Chuck's. Brown or red brick. Blue toothpaste. On stage. Ferry terminal. Four day week. Interpol or Cointelpro or Burns. Namibian difficulties. The recent unpleasantness between Japan and the U.S. List lover. Trailer park. Underpass. Tuesday, a.m. What, alarm, ceiling, clock, dull light, urine, toothpaste, blue shirt, jeans, water for coffee, bacon, eggs, soy toast, phoney earth shoes, bus, another bus, typewriter, telephone, co-workers, salad, iced tea, more co-workers, bus, ambulance on freeway, another bus, a beer, chicken, rice and squash, today's mail, feces, tv, glass of chablis, darkness. Rare delta fog. Plywood, fiberboard. Couch, divan, chesterfield, sofa. String of silver elephants on a chain about her neck. Her inevitably turned-up levi cuffs. The moderately successful wage slave. Morning in North Beach, Sunday in Chinatown. Locked bumpers, a problem in front of Rincon Annex, inside WPA murals of the working class, back from Ghana at forty. The tease. Sky blue wall of the racket club.

Space cowboy. The cotton rings around the mountain,
bum rhythm, the limp, the gimp. Googoo dada dada. P
soup. For the entire family. 2 Disney smash hits. The
All ★ Game. Two ponies in a brick red trailer behind
a brown pickup with a bale of hay in the back. Bush
jacket from China. Names of the cross streets. A rest-
ful orange. A restful orange bridge. The water, the haze,
the sky, all blue, a line drawing. Or not blue but grey
or gray. All the same. Industrial park. Heliport. Saliva.
Canal at low tide. Pompidour sheriff's yacht by the cu-
rious name of Bijou, a year's wages. Shade over shade
over shade. The curl of the ear. The tongue behind the
teeth behind the lips, at the entrance of the throat. Re-
mainder of a cigar. Calm blue eyes. Bells and chimes
and wooden drums. Straw horse. Off-white piano. High
hat. Blue couch. An old pair of Frye boots. Summer.
The sun. High gray sky.

SITTING UP, STANDING, TAKING
STEPS was designed and printed at
Tuumba Press by Lyn Hejinian. Of
an edition of 450 this is No. 77

THE
THE
THE
THE

\$ 2.00

Subscription: \$6 series
Individual copy: \$2
TUUMBA PRESS
2639 Russell Street
Berkeley, California 94705

