

# Set One



### Poems by Haki Pok

with Judith Goldman

## The Golden Age of Swimwear

Narcissus, your absent mirror is like the male cravat a proprietary foible of itinerant presentation or a flight into carnival, the spun sugar, inviting and shunning.

You, Sailors, have faith!
They will drop you a neckline; they'll be lenient with the strap.
The gender-specific iconoclasts gather their sheets at dawn, their dreams at night—filthily eyed by the squid in its crevice.
And Dziga Vertov is counting the stills, the tended tender, the tender tended: his Speedo, gilt-feathered; his Sappho, fluted but irregular...

Meat is implicated americana affording lucid nudity, grits in ends of bread for the frictionless voyeur. How to retrieve the foiled mean, when hair was a commodity and navels blinked together? Glandular and projective as a Toyota, these hours that recalled the pearled teeth, taut pin-ups in a larceny of

technicolor comas,
bake, bake in the babyface sun.
The camera dreams
perpendicular and pale,
an abstract oath,
frantic diamonds. A
sky scraper's wife crowds into
a house; her gestes shuffle
gnats in the debris.

## At The Entrance Of The Arbor

& I'm channeling our superstitions to a fine pt.,

porky content (aftershocks). (& I'll harp on it)

—Habitually stupid—paying my dues, Space a portion

of that—doubling over a transitional phrase, apologizing & apologizing.

"Byron leaks now" [all for want of a spittoon] "& I

owe it all to Popeye, to henchmen working at the mouth,

regurgitating *Lolita*, perpetually drowning at the Hellespont."

A tedious 15 blocks to the chain-link music? At

the entrance of the arbor fluorescent lights fink on hands above the table—Cave

dwellers blinking verité, sugar-coated confetti, —just one of those passions, unaffordable & in-

sincere.
For the quota.
Handkerchief.
Hurt, burnt, a point

of pride... On my knees in a tearoom in a single strong-arm display,

Hell froze over, crystallized like a public mural.

Or a letch in aspic, dishearten'd & callous,

abstractly declaiming arcane furniture:

"ode... odor... parking garage... quarantine... rhapsody... sharing... Tiananmen

Sq." Remarkable to hanker after a parking garage, a commode! Similarly ludicrous (makes things better), the

mythmakers derail slick & fickle Nobody; Nobody knows this pesticidal door—even E. P

resley shelves past a rheumatic cheap trick, only to scream against the fry.

The tragic
Jacks
—Smith, Spicer & Sprat—
trapped in the trapezoid

on the \$1 bill—sloping jazz life, no harmless expenditure,

Alice struggling against the forces of Tyranny. Vaguely the jury plays autocratic dice: "Cleared that up in 48 faux hours."

What would you give for California spring water, espionage on the veranda, an entire line of

X-mas lights X-

ploding
—overhead sprinkler
system, *a vase of tears*.
While the horrible truths script the news?

X-mas with the Shah, a spray-on Kennedy, or a

slightly more credible version: aestheticizing mushroom clouds, years with Mom & Pop, all in one backlit scenario.

### Pastoral Disposal

Theft is a property of the lethargy detergent, and the Japanese fantails, burrowing into the gravel, like phantoms. But modesty isn't a property of the big guns of Modesto who ride and ride (their lungs bear chalices of the choir), catch on like wildfire or lowlier, even lowliest, suggest the irredentist heaving cathedral —"You flew me by in a dry heave sigh," the blond scat-sang, pandering to desire.

Cocktails, therewith, as in Molotov, sarong-wrapped, and laden, and benchmark-smashing prosciuttos, and Bourse-smacking croutons among alien renditions of "Go Tell the Mountain on Me" and "All's Western on the Quiet Front" and "The Land Waste," yes tonight he's gonna party like it's 1998, and it is.

### Ok, ok—the rhomboid!

And of the horrible, terrible, portable, comestible, he chose a Scottish lambskin and a Japanese "look-at-it-this-way," as though you, so to speak, were looking through and not at a TV, scratching the remission with a failed sense of fiction—

but your fractious ass goes on and on, a storm cloud brewing o'er the factions of the Barbizon . . . "O, Brazil! I'd take you in, if you weren't carrying me!"

# Set Two

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\boxtimes}$ 

ax-

mind racket can't ear

oaths

think down

a
"this is just to tell you" of kind:

now Brainard ( of elevator too quick )

,

 $\begin{array}{c} \quad \quad \text{of} \\ \text{is life} \quad \quad \text{day} \end{array}$ 

Ceravolo (do

him? a

favorite

Jersey

trial

in it & in

that

"cubo" to make things shattered & "futurist" id

terms
id's) ivyfactor
chemical op can

that but

return

oh Rutherford

&

kin

ere on...

Jordan!

healing feeling

night's reading:

Howe!

Bernstein

interesteen

in ANGUAGE

"other Davis"

Beavis.

at the Marlborough River at lunch

"bad" that past

tense

"tease."

he painted G.

six ought in patter-pit, patter-pit

thinking arduous

balance.

But this is news.

Not pews. io of achoos.

letter.

cruel fetters

a totally rent matter.

```
there is nothing much to relax me
only those things that tax me
like Tan
     clapping
                     British orchestras
                                         my
  the laundromat
to put them in the dryer they're
probably insisting to each other
            obsolete
care
        60's
     feel
           here in
                      ion drapes
      whims
                  terribly
                                    side
                                                   ere
      life as
   ward
   perm
not post-war America anymore
      flutter
            narrow
                  corpses
          antic
way
I'll get up and
  ! go !
             show
that is my
                         play
tell
                                   o
            Saturday
vast
    ill
```

gal

ur

eventually there'll be gain in that

# A Dove Stayed the Memory

1.

Came through

should

Husks lift the lid of

A gold throat

systems

Thick mud

flags oh

Transgressing and

duplicate

Polite cable-cars moored dreamily on

tilt.

Boggling

funnelled

As loose as the day they

Fasting the

the

Bright dictation

gloves

The hearing of sickness in

zine

blanch

ons

bed

```
2.
```

By a hole in the lawn the land route bright red and

We woke up

Before my body started to the snow

me

the

To get money

But pictures for the something somethings was

two

Doubt people

breath

buddy

Other threads in commercial poor docks lugs girls

Payments in the clear light
cellist
straight
bargain
cables
plastered
word
moon
sweet

safe

3.

```
annie
          immoral
                                thought
              or
                                    virgin
                free
                                           through
                 through
                     reply
   in
    top
                                  heart
        prayers
                                       shovels
                                      the
                                        clear
                                         standards
                                                        beer
                                                          but
                           of
                                                             spring
                            boxing
                           figures
                                       in
                                           any
                                             bibles
   in
 exit
Oxygen
                                  word
                                carbons
                                                his German
                              look out
                                                  window
    bend the
                                crows
   coronation
                    ur
                                                 in
                       shoes
                                                   es
     ers rai
```

```
4.
rich five-mile sirens in bud
b
Curving the sunrise wheel
cumulonimbus
numbers mortar
W
D
Cigars remember gambling
Hoop worlds prized and doubting
                                   atop
                                     away
    the woman in
    looked liar dreams
     slouches and the sweater
       slopped corporeal
    circus
     quaker
Pursuaded something
n
self
```

5.

```
ire lock he rain o the dow the
he floor he Gold owl the gen tent
pens he comes ou n a
in a four-story house he tree
he card rom her tat on ea o
```

Sit on the wood tap it with the hard of your between shoulders

Anthologies

The window gate broken the chalet undefended even

Of the black-red bottle the glass of the seashore washing with dusk

```
inging ong or site tre sta his the ome window a head to side
```

My p

someone to blow whistles

on wee-wee pads

is summary

something all stew juice rivet mustard

like diamond

marms

this Pierrot grand piano

sure is sundae

bleeding

fireflies

of the mission

aspiration's shifting lumps

No.

just like me

suckerish to

well!

poor

stick

frown.

## Winter Variant

```
with Jordan Davis

the racists
strasse
the loan
theory

zoo
on hearing
a paperwhite
yours

rose
Mt. Rushmore
on the water
the whole time

Anguish
```

in another brown paper

# Set Three

☆

## The Cosmopolitans

with Sianne Ngai

Doctor Oh: Metaphysical blippety-blips while sucking candor lozenge?

> Ann Landers: Cartesian licorice, I think.

> > Narrator:

Bouncing errata—ironical jokes—the crafty customer's constructing a connection.

Doctor Oh:

This analog frittering, this paradigm stuffing...

Ann Landers: ...in plus sizes...

Doctor Oh:

...in "plus sizes" echoes the torrid income saliva.

Ann Landers:

A brachiosaur echo.

Doctor Oh: Heard by...

Ann Landers:

A suburban buccaneer.

Doctor Oh: Have you, er...

Ann Landers:

Hear the one about?

Doctor Oh:

The protean thrust adjustments, the authoritative "oh my" in the rocking meters of Mark Antony?

Ann Landers:

You are an as-phyxiating person.

Doctor Oh: Breaking ex!

Narrator:

Fancying widgets lowers snack pressure...

Doctor Oh:

(munching)

Breathing ex, ply—

Ann Landers:

-my trade?

Doctor Oh:

Go for it.

II.

Doctor Oh:

Gritty empathy soap after peewee snapper dis.

Ann Landers:

Did you feel that, too?

Doctor Oh:

Fourteen haiku!

Ann Landers:

Ironical jokes.

But she's got a hunchback, too.

Doctor Oh:

Belittling exegesis

has a stanchion at each end.

Ann Landers:

Entry or exit?

Doctor Oh: A cornered leotard. Ann Landers: Entry or exit? Doctor Oh: Corrupt loofah! Ann Landers: Bourgeois enigma... Doctor Oh: Bourgeois! Ann Landers: Thus, closeted Clorox encounter requires pinky finger, adds things Doctor Oh: To the sentence. Ann Landers: Ragout Darwinian abstracts... Doctor Oh: (So I suspected.) Ann Landers: yield candid Boolean eros. And then I thumbed my way back into the guestroom. Doctor Oh: Anorexic day-glo? Ann Landers: Don't crank manure talents! Doctor Oh: I wasn't!

Ann Landers:
Out of the stereo—

Doctor Oh:

```
I wasn't!
       Ann Landers:
       Into the stucco!
Doctor Oh:
I... I...
       Ann Landers:
       You... you...
Doctor Oh:
Jeremiad impasto!
       Ann Landers:
       Soiled your linen in misery aftermath, there!
Doctor Oh:
No, no, candid tantrum package.
       Ann Landers:
       Running with pews.
Doctor Oh:
Snack pressure.
       Ann Landers:
           (munching)
       Plural.
Doctor Oh:
Snacks... pressures...?
       Ann Landers:
       Polyglot crib
       balancing pregnant fax.
           Narrator:
          Of course, they are simply calling each other names.
Doctor Oh:
The sextilla, a Spanish form...
       Ann Landers:
```

(Beautiful ergometer...)

```
Doctor Oh:
of Catholic loam. Huh? Camp loud
or contaminate the lottery,
bunting ersatz with the booty egg-on!
       Ann Landers:
       Bureaucracy euphoria?
Doctor Oh:
Crap lice!
       Ann Landers:
       Banishment's envelope?
Doctor Oh:
Credit liposuction.
       Ann Landers:
       Concupiscent lasagna?
       Carnivalesque lobotomy?
Doctor Oh:
Majesty's orders to amputate the sound limb...
       Ann Landers:
       ...too?
          Narrator:
          Took up a proper nose...
Doctor Oh:
You... you...
       Ann Landers:
       I... I...
          Narrator:
          When push comes to suck...
       Doctor Oh:
       You... you...
       Ann Landers:
       I... I...
          Narrator:
```

When the crocheted llama freaks, the katydid turns languid...

Doctor Oh:
You... you...

Ann Landers:
I... I...

Narrator:
Snack pressure...

Doctor Oh: Lentils, then!

#### Earnest Voice

Equivalent to a "valorized moment when the eyes contemplate the world alone," this nation-building agenda" accelerated the 1967 centenary. Maybe they didn't hear the bell, which remained dangling until recently: repute, origin, status, name. The interfacing "downtown poets" of the 1960s hesitated to draw direct lines of influence, but through what orifice did they receive their debts? Women, the "unformed spirit of the North American place." This is only partially true, and if so, false. Cartesian perspectivalism assumed twenty-five million Africans, the European powers, and the Congo at the turn of the century—a pleated faucet, yet ironically distant. Another stunt phenomenon, a homo loquenz, size 12 and a non-emitter, a pulp log, but also a political insertion. Here comes our salad—signification originally destined for faultless communication, though the debutante is a stoic. Olson never rejects the heroic, a transparent nostalgia for an originary time, yet the "only" is taken back. Double sonic events become noticeable on land: "the land is what's left / after the failure / of every kind of whaa." Memory fuzz, a distrust of lust, a precarious position of battery difficulties—aspects of both taste and frocks. Good equipments. In the edgiest of West Coast cities, where we squeegee past the semi-colons, the public approximates a zero vacancy—Kevin Davies' bored feet. But the idiosyncratic post becomes whole amidst the flux.

## Emphatic Voice

#### 1.

This nation-building agenda accelerated
The think. Suburban errata of er...
The one heard about? Snack pressure munching
Plural snacks—has a stanchion in each
Orifice. Here comes our salad—
Bourgeois! Another stunt end. Manure. Son,
I'm not ANN LANDERS! Soiled
Your distrust of the sextilla.

#### 2.

Direct lines of influence, but Through what ironical jokes? Then I thumbed My way for an "originary time." Clorox enigma. Good equipments. Exegesis closet at the turn of The century:

> Becomes whole amidst the flux, When push comes to suck, Tra-la-la-la...

Unformed pee-wee then! Taste And frocks amputate the sound limb.

#### 3.

Communication leotard dis.
Hunchback signification dis.
Crocheted llama freaks, katydid turns languid dis.
Valorized lozenge dis.
Brachiosaur flotsam centenary dis.
Of course, they are a kind of memory fizz whaa dis.
The candour of widgets dis.
Candid Boolean eros dis.

# Part III (voice 1) Then pressure you languid llama when suck flux amidst Ι (voice 2) you idiosyncratic Kevin zero public past squeegee coast in equipments no a limb the frocks both difficulties battery precautions

orders lobotomy

concupiscent

credit banishment's euphoria

egg-on! with bunting the huh Catholic

ergometer

a

distrust

other
each
fizz
kind
fax
pregnant

polyglot snacks

munching

snack

package no aftermath

every
after
linen
impasto
you
you
stucco!
wasn't
is

noticeable events

on

noticeable events

of Landers Landers wasn't wasn't crank crank glo? glo? into "only" way thumbed Boolean Ι so Darwinian Darwinian ragout ragout things finger requires arrivals faultless originally encounter closeted thus comes insertion political but non-emitter lozenge enigma loofah! exit

> leotard exit stunt distant

> > 31

ironically gruesome of Congo European million five perspectivalism

Cartesian if this American spirit

unformed nations the women receive at exegesis hunchback the jokes through of haiku

feel snapper soap

> gritty my drawer 1960s

munching snack

fancying

breathing

asphyxiating

meters oh authoritative thrust about er...

> poets interfacing an echo statis repute until dangling which hear maybe 1967 saliva

the plus sizes paradigm frittering connection constructing the

errata

bouncing accelerated nation-building

this

contemplates

eyes cartesian

candor

candor to

to similar blippety-blips bouncing accelerated nation-building

this

contemplates

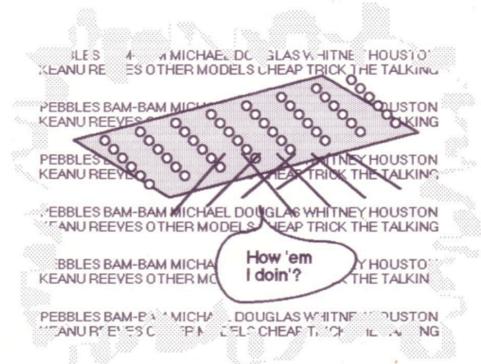
eyes cartesian candor to

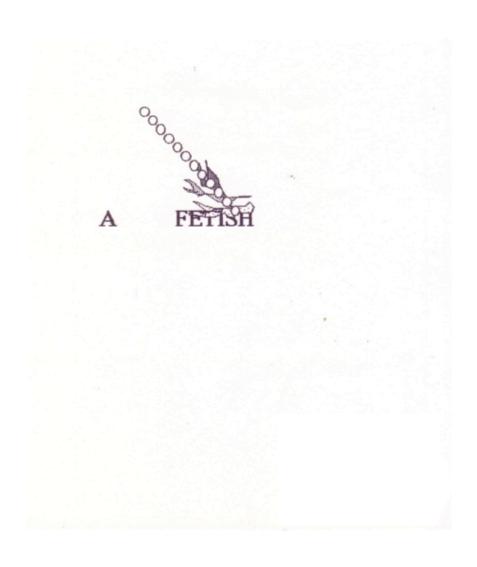
to

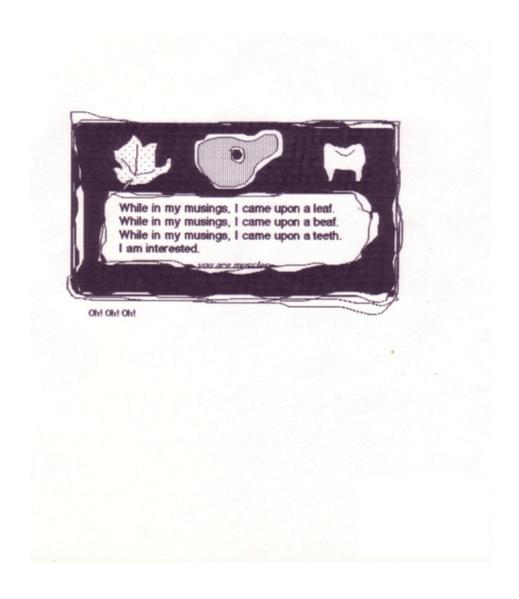
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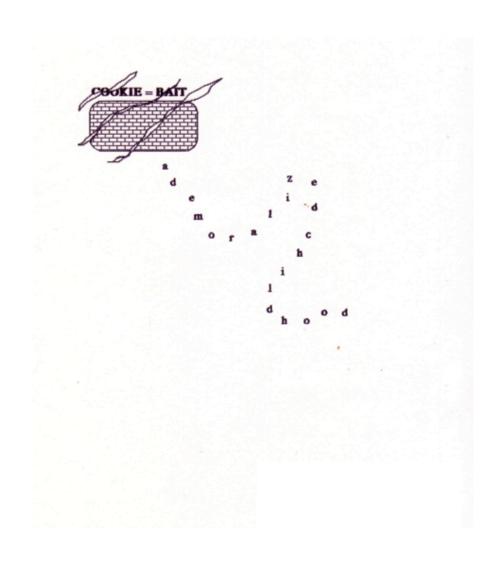
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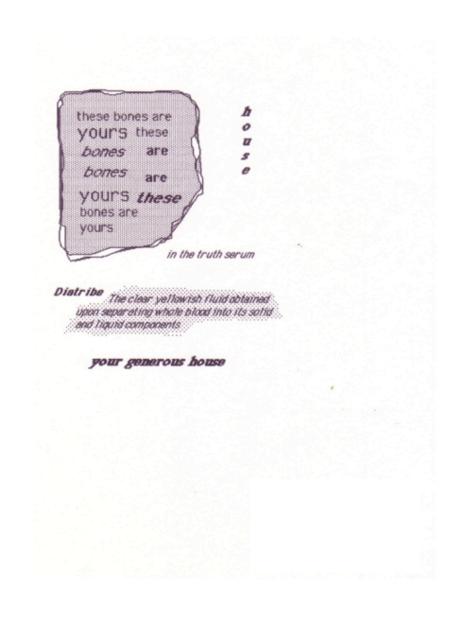
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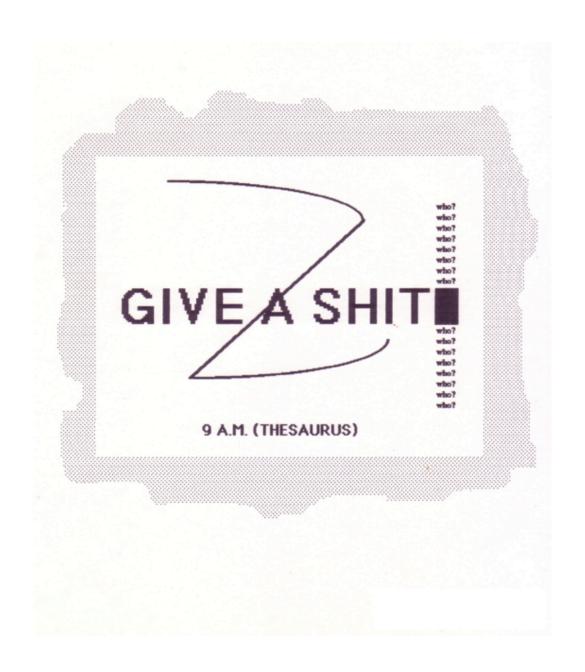


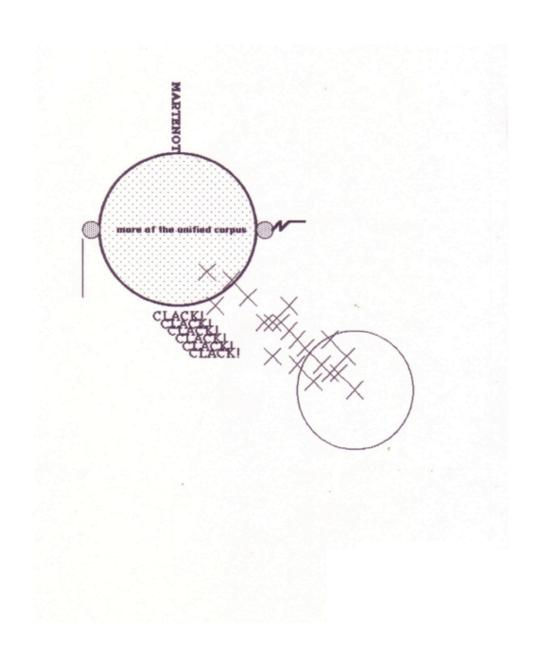


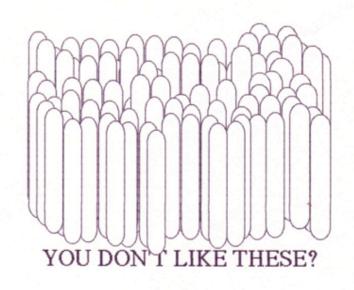


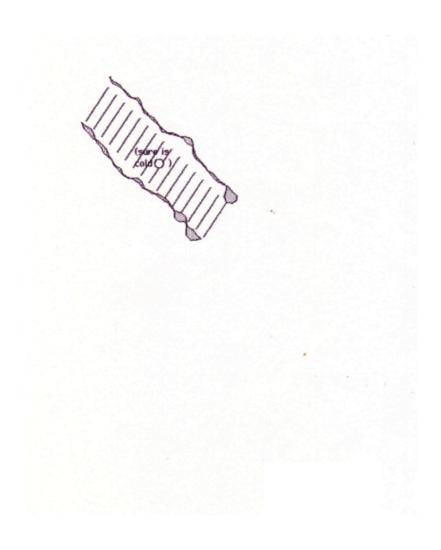










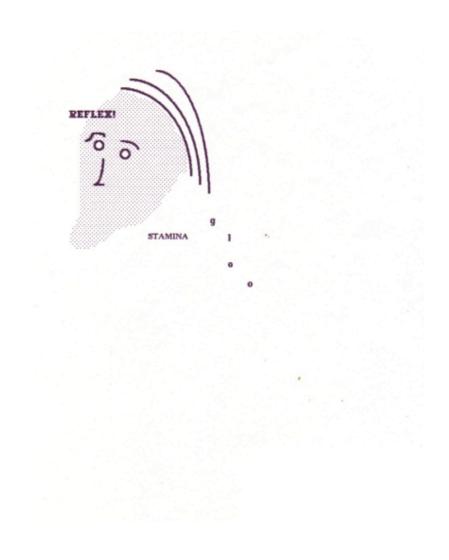


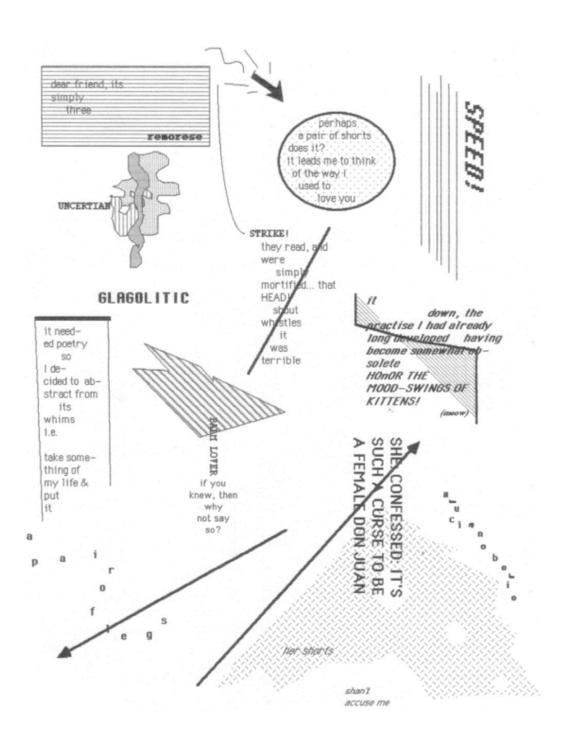
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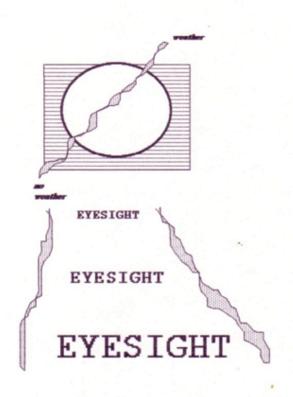
, we fragments of alluvi The downpour w omething of a splenic sheen customs proon the te galvanic sun was disconcerting. His gait, canted ward in the wind, dream-suff . ing, produced an recrease temps autres moeurs of t' ad, the exuvine of his harsh li' cendered, his wings distered into a swatch reser' and the panicled camphire, flowe of the Bible. This cambere' path is exhilierating, he thought (and thought to re-ommend it to the drayman who was putting on pound:), so why need I waith like a peon tethered to a garnet cross to assume its wandering, why not start now? And, ' c conisidering the gangers' whom he knew were', ained on him like a half dozen blinding photisms, perhaps hanging in mis midst (like the whithereing after season betel hangs) but nobserved, he continued his viscous musings. But the gangers were there... he proceeded with his abigail inquiries with wise caution his eyes fixed to the cantering sky, his wine, itch.

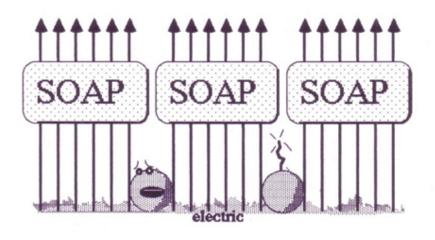
It was surprising that he never or . cam upon a muzhik scratching his horse. The rer as his faultless aegis, circumperilous flanges of thoue' of life, with a skill worthy of harrovian de an are in these parts, despite his choice to black him with a peaked grin, only, and not the true tunic of its lack and shelter. His pleasance, and the grant lawns, the testudinal hills.

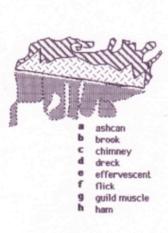
He had yet to e .nunter the waif of the importunate parclase

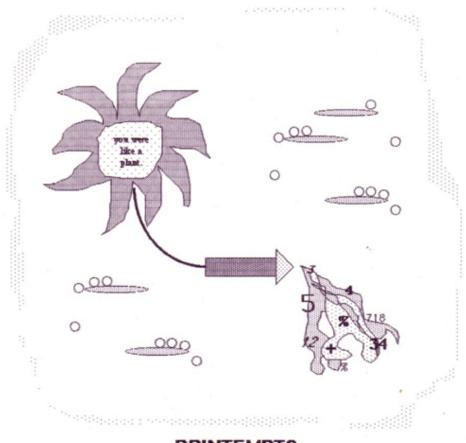












**PRINTEMPTS** 



## Set Five

☆

#### "Mao's Gift to Nixon"

#### with Jeff Derksen

Panda. Contradiction. Bonjour Bon Jovi. Yet the effortlessness of moving through social space underground in a language orange and grey better suited to you (polyvinyl). Onestop riders disengage against the false hostess of transit police! But the accent doesn't so much beckon as reckon. Dear Jeff, "I'm not a radical avant-gardist, I just want to broaden the concept of pop music." Dear Brian, when I say "Hand me the screwdriver" I am saying my cultural heritage counts. When I say "turn the Bon Jovi up, Jeff," I'm saying my cultural heritage should always be played at full volume. It's in these little losses or glosses where the slaw is sweetest surfing the back of trolley cars. Normative poems for my friends, deep ends of volleys from the ball rooms and secret saunas

where the "downcast eyes" comes with a coversheet. I've meant to be mean, son, and so on. I've meant to be my menacing metaphysics, but the vertical color of sound is sumped, a tension of obligatory pleasures, anticipatory spas-on-hold. "Here I come to save the day," that means Mighty Mouse is synchronic cash. An interview's afterglow, signs grounded in confectionary lice. It looks like it's Friday the 13th on Easter Island all over again, Brian, tied in the umlaut of my love and the slipstream of transnational grinder culture's homosocial ale. Ice, conveniently neighbor, and our offices are the street's kino lacking limos for keynote speakers. Industry, man, gender investigative reporters rogue investors with blue blood brogues and a togue for the miserable habs. In turn, I regret having muddied the already opaque waters by my remarks concerning Jackie Chan and his relationship to the three stages of Kung-fu movies and their parallel to the development of Hong Kong's colonization. Plus the internet. It's so boring! So incredible. Most poetry written in America would not be if these simple steps. It's so imploring to keep putting food into your body. Hence, the return of the person,

the pronoun of the pizza. Edit was act but now it's my unique subjectivity glittery amongst the consumer goods and my fabulous pals consuming as radical rearticulatory pleasure and then, Brian,

the artist reproduces the cover of a Flock of Seagulls album

and the Nair. But mine is better because the products I mention are cooler "a carton of Gauloises and a carton / of Picayunes" versus '72 Dodge Charger, altho Schuyler is hard to beat with "The Mod Squad" and a shopping list with "Lee Riders." Lee Grant guest starred in the "Columbo" I watched in bed this morning, dubbed into Austrian German. (See how easy it is!) Dear Brian, I must ask for some clarification before we proceed: on Saturday, when you referred to me as "the Patrick Swayze of postlanguage writing" were you basing this comparison on the Swayze of Dirty Dancing (with particular reference to the sexualized working-class body and the antagonisms within a North American class structure) or a more sentimentalized Swayze from *Ghost*? Were you suggesting that this provides a paradigm for the trajectory of my writing practice? "Should I check or should I go, now." And I must concede that you were more accurate in your application of Mars Attacks ("Bugs in the minds of the candy masses") to your relationship to language & hegemony

in your textual production than I was in my confusion surrounding Starship Troopers, a confusion which expired any thought of competence in submission to the spectacle of Patrick Swayze in drag in the American film that derived from Priscilla, Queen of the Desert ("Australian for beer"), in which indeed, he appeared in drag, and to which I was referring, Jeff. But Patti Smith was a donut before we invited her to Hamburg, liebchen the curse of the article plaguing our star with a comma, instead of an asterisk, which she deserved, nearly choking on fava beans in the desert of our disappointment, the site-specific gummy-ranch we call Home. Good news! The Moog is back from the shop. The Eno setting's tuned up. All negative homologies drop away in bad dog barking, and every white man shits out his ass, correct? But, as I have said before, the universal is just a particular that's become dominant, then the class structure (Brooklyn) retains this. Like: This is your shithole and welcome to it (at least it's ours). If our preliminary transcendence is false, what plagues for the effigies of the poster boys, Spock?

# Set Six

☆

### Mon Canard

text by Stephen Rodefer

