





TATIANA LUBOVISKI-ACOSTA

drinking a diet coke after sex to strip the heteronormativ ity from my palate. if you leave me, you ought to

go blind. rainbow. such an aggressive little fuck er. describe to me what outfit your trauma is wearing. does the threat of

our intimacy make your face bright with the opening of the sky. i look to you, then to the rotting fruit in the bowl. metanoi

a strikes again! please ignore contemporary purity's gaze and the prostrate nude of ante empire ruins and their come

hither glance. my dumb current form, my venus in virgo. stupid with beauty, resistant to a singular history. a

container that is a product of conspira cy. a general strike, a knife to upper lip and nose, alive out of spite.

considering our desires failing each one. on a sinking dreamboat thru a landscape littered with the corpses of high school sweethearts

having gone to seed. the ugly duckling transformed into a duckling fantasy. am i the girl with the fictional pussy. of course i am. a bright laughing clit, ravenous walls seizing for con trol of the means of produc tion. i am sucking a tit

on a roof above telegraph, pulling the threads of all the lies in the sea out of this person whose lover i was at the

time. a long time a go, before the floating night mare of our compos ite charts, my sun in your eighth house, yours in mine.

whatever that means! is it the radical in me who wants that communal succor of being evisc erated by refrac

ted love for someone whose venus is in gem ni, an anarchist bee. i refuse to be your flower. instead, i rot, and

invite the riot into my sick bed. my love lies bleeding on the interrogation room floor. another slow morning of

the tender joke.

THE BODY ARTIST for Konrad

the rapist head of state wrote a book of poems

on having missed managua in the time of miniskirts.

oh, how i wish to strangle him between

my anemic thighs; force a lahar

of bacterial yeast into his mouth.

it's springtime when the girls are sacrificed

or when we ride our bikes towards the fire.

i place a tiny daisy into your ear canal.

a white woman i am no longer friends with

once recommended a book to me. it was about a performance artist

grieving for her older husband. i have not read the book.

why would i. she was being cruel.

i remember going ice skating when i thought i'd lost you forever.

i always imagined myself wanting to walk into the ocean once the sudden loneliness settles in.

from BIEN CUIDADA

it doesn't matter what your work is like, he will become inextricable,

haunt all critique. his action will be a visual parasite.

i look myself in the mirror watch myself bleed while i floss.

i wonder what can live within a young girl.

i imagine the evil that men do

as an airborne pathogen infecting women and leading them

to destroy themselves inexplicably.

a friend told me, in a café on obregón, about an epidemic

of young women in greece hanging themselves.

no one knew why, and to shame them, the elders

paraded their still hanging corpses, stripped naked

through the town. it worked. girls stopped. when i looked this up, stories and videos of refugees attempting to hang themselves in public in athens

come up instead. someone painted

suicide in black on the sidewalk

outside the new museum the day a posthumous retrospective

of ana mendieta's work opened; it was also the date carl andre's

trial was to begin. i believe that he killed her.

it's not enough that he kills you.

he has to stab your side, and hold vinegar up to your lips, and mock your mother, too.

my friend screams. i want to build a house around myself

and destroy it with my bare hands as it collapses onto me.

in ciudad juarez, it was preferred to believe that it was a single non-mexican

murdering young women. to paraphrase amy, what if an entire country's evil could be distilled in one man.

a murdered woman covered in snow

watches over the city where i was born.

from my mouth, i pull out the finest gold chain.

it had wrapped itself around my organs. a pool

-

of blood collects on the floor of the gallery.

DAMON POTTER

from BIRB TEETH

١.

On an island, you said horses are free on an island off Georgia. I need to see this Cumberland Island. I wore masks. I gave you spores. I hoped for my motility. I hope my own anomie won't block the way to Cumberland Island. 6.

Hold on me my weakest memes. Hold on me my shaking knees nd all the time my teeth chatted like some bollard bees. Hold me to my weakest matters, the strength of men nd strength of friends. Hold me up and pollard me. I'm the peeling, clinging bark of urban trees. I'm the dust clogging one stoma. I'm the rain that hits nd sticks, submits itself to the leaf 's skin. I am me, the anxiety knows, I grieve, misbehave. I say hurtful things. I'm dead branches waiting for wind. Leave me the leaves stuck to a drain.

9.

12.

I am thin from washing men. I think myself a walk in wind. I think my skin comes from empty vestment bins. I should eat. I should go outside. I should talk. I should exercise. I should hop those who line nd lie upon the avenue where they've got the ingress hid. Of legged lounging limbs, I should hop their shins and wrest aliment from the abdomen. 14.

Hairy legs, uncut lawn, lustering in serous dawn. Dead lawn under a neighbor's thumb waits and begs for me to come. The residue from when I was young straightens my legs each time I come in isolation. My body's made for day today and cataleptic days of come.

My body's made for day today and cataleptic days of come. My body's plumb, day's resplendent proffer.

Dehydrate me the dream of son, a misty, wet, and watered one.

Dehydrate me, succinctly slaughter all my thousand sons and daughters.

Dehydrate and leave of me all my layered volant come.

My penis pursing lips the sun.

My penis pursing lips the sun,

the purpose of my day is come.

17.

18.

I hoped for numbing lips. I groped for limps or humming hips nd pressed to mesh a shrine from our constant walkaway bricks. I still walk with feet entwined. I still walk nd hear four clicks. Drunker with a vein enmouthed, and separate from hip to hip and end to end I still the rope's too tight or I slip. 20.

I watched you shave your face in mirrors. I watched you shave new pertinence. You danced and said newcircumstance. Your milk strutting scuffed the floor, you blocked the light beneath the door. Drunk sons rescuff old scuffs in buffed floors to muffle reflections under doors.

CODY CARVEL

A DIAMOND. AND YOU?

What an awkward feeling to be surprised in the midst of sadness. The ease at which we slip into and out of our old habits, clothes for a new season. An ensemble that holds together. A carousel of forced smiles, giddy antics (climate). Pushed off or held tight. Either way, to hell with it all and turn your hands over to instinct.

[Or...]

Really, to hell with it all. Dream of waking in the ruffled company of you (velvet snow smiling) and your best dress (metallic silk). What sun rises? Cold and cloudy? Fair weather and a drive through the unpaved roads whose ruts slow us down and make our white socks red (pretty faces, too).

[Well, then...] Pretty face turned red. [And...] I loved the way you looked when it rained at the end...

Downpour enough for Ovid. I could relate. But disagreeable to the climate, I found the air stale and began to wheeze. A hug would have surfaced a diamond. And you?

[LONELINESS GROWS A WILDERNESS]

Loneliness grows a wilderness mutes the daylight hours dull brings rivers and rails near enough to murder and escape with last senses—he's here! My mystery date! And I—never ready for swimming can't chain down the line, been tied to the tracks by dreams and duds still no trains came to smush me the sun brittled my ropes and I headed home fey, strange, cracked—

The sun threatened to leave, gave me good reason to believe he'd never show no light upon the dour four hundred million martyrs—feeling with the lights off guessing at new old beauty—roses read about in braille, tasting at sweetless Red Vines, smelling the apple tree's bark skin your knee, singing out to kestrels deaf or disobedient refusing all horizons, a thrilling game for you—and you—and you—and—

To leave the door open—and close the eyes and lips invites numerous surprises—looters and satyrs countless haters and lovers and stranglers skiers and bowlers with their own ideas about the good, paid little or no mind—I gave up assembling the perfect outfit, made picnics with the invisible white goat in the attic ate through brambles and furze till the sun returned and apologized.

THE VICTORIANS CALLED IT FREAKY DANCING

Le Basket within view, I wish for posterity and this poem, teleport me—I stare through all between sprinting home to fuck you or the other way round, moreover right this minute my impatient I dying to lose track of how many bodies pass azoom, ablur, ecstatic vaporized by my hope to be home with you.

I imagine the Elizabethans would gag or scoff or just fire hydrant vomit at the sight of me all lack of tact and decorum, just wants practically demands. Or maybe they'd have heart attacks—argh on site, on the spot, just there threatening hems—hand tailored digressions are all I have when stopped by traffic

between the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and home (due south). Throat lump screams a switchblade thinking of either of us dying, and I choke up when I think of James Schuyler living in Yorkville until I can picture living there with you, or anywhere we can build a tent.

TO THE CULTURE INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

Oh JK JK JK we know you're doing fine, just shut up and take my money. Save me the trouble of knowing my diagnosis, give my prognosis to Broadway and autopsy me to Herald Square.

The Geminids are here again and I welcome them with "When You Wish upon a Star" or "Theme from Shaft" or whatever comes to mind and I can get through without crying usually "Lite Brite making things with light..."

And natural distraction passes into night and my devil's hands stain magazines or tickets to ballet recitals or bluegrass musicals about Hamilton Fish or some true crime picture set on ancient Mars. More likely somber sober nightly

news: the launch codes are in us all already the news anchor mouthed as salacious gossip fun-sized celebrity slander in no way a desire deterrent, no better, no worse living through vicariousness, hear that? Decibels distant speeding to the scene of a soapbox sofa the slain chosen to ride to musée and mercat brought to us by sponsors and workers and history's

mendicants throwing their arms around our knees interrupting our toxic leisure, laboriously earned. Canonize us the anxious attached, martyr us the avoidant, may our halos be stylish one of a kind couture each season, each season a register rings anew key despises the lock still locked. Wingless and floating, peering through

keyhole reveals opportunity for revolution passed all out of laughter and hate. Otis Redding suggests a gentle kindliness tenderness two for one Tuesday but I am alone and have no plans for guests, no extra chair or plate and to wonder why and why not makes me wish my heart could be torn in half

if but for company keeping.

MY MAIN MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS

this that, those, those over there

in the gymno and at the agora just hangin

with Oneiroi on our way to the fair

ornery, stubborn boys onerously horny honorable thieves stealing

glances, ensconced in the arcade, silhouettes purl ding ding gyre adrizzle

pinball pros becoming flood twinkling bodies whirl in waltzers then loiter

knurly serpentine expletives glittering trash, lusty litter fun house was anything but

unrecognizable tunes organ grinds too many kisses in the summer

is never enough for the fall that follows twenty bucks gets you jack and that's just

because we're friends, we are me, my selfs

NEW WORLD

An ode to my newness, singing damsels, distressing boys in hair suits woven from glass strands, live killer cursed death sentences chewed and sung to the tune of some nationalistic lore ditty, doowockadoowackadoo and so on and on to invoke the displaced, oh where have you gone Native equivalent of zombie—How might we find your mighty finely ground savior, we need a good symbol to play the monkey cymbals while we tax, er, scuse me taxidermy your almost souls.

Chorus of cackles, frenetic outside the veil an ode to my newness, singing damsels, catcalling boys wearing finely woven suits strands, alive killer hired a fleet of elephants to smuggle us we found the new land

wow we spend most of our vacation days

[transition, wipe or fade]

visiting the previous culture's mausoleums the natural history muzeet only somewhat edifying. The males we have seen and see continue to get his way I'll throttle the ponce in his ridiculous tie though I had to hand it to him, his mustache was the envy of the continent one sided and veneered with gold leaf.

ALEX CRUSE

FIVE POEMS

obliterate utterances in the teething yaw stammering to be a guileless material --afterbirth, as such could abstract far enough from it to become an arm -ed amplitude period; the darkness elongates . the skins de-shackled and drought debris while the bulk of pressurized breeding is intaglio infrastructure. sleeping and coiled in its politics like noise music, any old genre that circumvents its own criticism. but there are no words which begin with that letter and even alterity must re-learn the mechanics of sucking teeth.

so badly that i erupted twice into breeding, or utensil; into gauche nightspot into flimsy shadow, phosphorescent orange.

beautiful little face of being strange you're asleep with the raw stuff, the most experimental education you could scroll with your hands.

i want to fund their secret light, to soak in terror and chemical hungers.

to mend the indices of our sensorium is not to repair a world you are still written with a 3000hz LRAD

fellow cell phone users of earth: you befriend it all.

how much public space will we need to all be speakers

in stutters, and novelty t-shirts that can't be spelt

swimming private space, silently mouthing mouthing mouthing into thinking blindness and would easily be executed; but yes. SPECIES ONE: goodbye. the Nth vacuole.

atomic passages quilt interstice, within warped surfaces of time, scented like part of dream. remixing a gifted mouth. tubes of it. this is so art. i indescribe it. the origin of matrix is:

something that constitutes the place or point from which something else originates, takes form, or develops

The Word derives from the Old French matrice ("pregnant animal"), from the Latin mātrīx ("dam, womb")

Agnes Martin's piece, i didn't catch the name, 64 columns, the squares produced in the grid were separated into 4 equal rectangles. 4 measures.

its interior cries my spiral

flattened void, the only score

i could sing

or upload

breath to.

a history of emptiness.

and though hands will encourage every immature skill,

we know that art returns in the wound.

the pink death flesh thick with flushed prescriptions our pneumatic species washes its surrogate makeup and accords a metabolized cipher to the meat of swimming

dry, nested frailty futurity in the marrow throat unencumbered and a breathing circle is produced

we become the prosthetic shadow of a species losing its mass

landscape, prescription, species, olfaction your body has a way of code-switching evading its fatigue chaperone muscle memory begins as Skill yet lingers as Animal, like ambient water. to embrace, in spite of everything

you know about

the way things are.

ask a nightmare what we found after rank

and are readying for all over again. corpus in drift, in salt

under the red as though we could escape the mirror as time got in it bones with their allover poor our generation of sick

at once, eating alive and ripening me as though its teeth were instant suns

it's getting its air from inside me

the chirality of your shape and its crisis faltering in extruded light

guilty as glass, picture window of the political sublime

inherits the patrician code that sheaths my email

DMZ behind the eyelids burns and peels away like

another page turning, a highly personalized blood-black language

waiting for its own scabs to begin, little saccades that occlude a universe which doesn't scale

dictatorial statue falls, silent as god or maybe it just tired from the lines.

AJA COUCHOIS DUCAN

FIVE: WATER TRILLING

In every family there are genetic pathways, tributaries that guide molecular units of heredity. She hears them calling to her the way dawn calls the sun out of the mountain side. She has been asleep so long that their voices have become urgent. They tell her things in a language she do not understand.

Indaanis, my daughter, and then the wind.

When she opens her eyes, the sky is bright, as if she had slept half the day, half of her life.

Indaanis, the ice caps are melting. Watch out for the river. It will flood soon.

As temperatures rise, glaciers and ice caps melt and water flows into the seas. The water warms and expands, raising sea levels. Slowly, the land begins to recede. Soon, she knows, it will be harder to reach across the oceanic expanse.

One night she wakes to an invisible hand shaking her. Indaanis there isn't much time.

The next day she begins scavenging the neighborhood for wood scraps to build a boat. She finds a shed with an assortment of windows and doors but she cannot figure out how to patch these objects of departure into a secure ark. It takes several weeks to finally amass all of what she needs. She expoxies the stray pieces of lumber together and coats the surface in sealant. While the wood dries, she stitches a flag together. There are no skulls or crossbones on it, just one red heart with a jagged cut down the center.

At dusk she climbs into the boat and hoists the flag. There, on the front porch, she waits for the water to find her, to lift her up, to carry her off like the wind. During the most recent ice age, the seas dropped and the glaciers rose. Now everything is being reversed. Animals follow the water down the mountains and into the valleys. They track rivers across state lines.

One day she finds a black bear in her front yard. *Makwa*, she says, you are hundreds of miles from home. Slightly shorter than she is, it out weighs her by at least thirty pounds.

When night falls, the bear is still there in the yard, marking the tree with claws and teeth. She brings it a basket of berries and sits on the porch watching through the darkness as the bear devours them. When the bear is done, it climbs the tree and wraps its thick body around the sturdiest branch.

She places a blanket and pillow in the boat and makes a bed of it. She can hear the bear snoring, a husky vibration that lulls her to sleep.

For months she waits for the water but it does not come. The bear disappears during the day and returns each evening, lumbering at the edge of her yard.

At first she just brings it berries. Eventually she starts making s alads of parsnips, carrots, turnips and anchovies and places them in a bucket that she hangs from the lowest branch of the tree.

One evening the bear is waiting for her on the porch. She hands it the bucket and settles into the boat. The bear moves back into the darkness of the yard to dine on the roots and fish.

Makwa, she says, speaking into the shadows, when the water comes I am sailing north toward the arctic, toward ursa minor, little bear, and the north star.

There are bears there too, she says, but she doesn't mention they are white and twice Makwa's size. She doesn't mention the land itself is mostly ice. She knows that as everything warms, the molecules are speeding up causing the ice to shift from a solid to a liquid state. The permafrost is thawing and releasing increasing amounts of methane, further exacerbating polar amplification. At night she dreams that all the earth's bears are living together on an iceberg. Black bears, brown bears, sloth bears, sun bears, and polar bears inhabiting a frozen island in the artic sea. The polar bears are teaching the others how to hunt for seals and fish in the frigid waters that surround their floating islet of ice.

When she wakes, she hears the familiar voice. *Indaanis*, the temperatures are rising. The earth can no longer yoke its weather patterns. Soon they will swing wildly between states of drought and flood.

Temperature has a profound impact on organisms. The physiological processes which define life are biochemical reactions, the signaling and flow of chemical energy. Simple chemical reactions increases as temperature increases, but physiological processes proceed more slowly at temperatures above or below their thermal optimum.

These same processes are also water-based.With increasing climate change, all organisms must struggle to maintain an appropriate water balance and temperature range for life sustaining biochemical interactions.

The air becomes so dry she could light it on fire with a match. All of the surrounding creeks dry up and the deer, foxes, and coyotes are forced toward town where the water still miraculously comes out of faucets. She puts buckets of water out for them but the bear scares them off with her restlessness. The boat listing on the porch seems like an absurdity.

Then one evening the sky thunders and cracks and water pours from the serrated opening. In the drought the soil has baked to a hard clay so now the water slips across it as if rock. Within days the town is transformed into a medieval kingdom of hilltop fortresses and moats. In a land that is not this land, in a time that is not this time the earth spits out its tongue and the spine of a continent thrusts forth. Plants evolve from lakeside algae and spread onto land. Insects dine on the green foliage and eventually take flight. Four footed vertebrates begin their journey out of the water, although some return to reproduce in the dark liquid's protection. Flowering plants spring forth as do bees and ants. Song birds take to the skies. Mammoths swing their long curved tusks while homo hominids domesticate dogs and hunt the earth's verdant expanse. In a land that is not this land in a story that is not this story, she waits in the tree while the water fills her yard, her house, carries away all her possessions. The bear is resting on an adjacent limb, breathing heavily beside her. The boat floats idly nearby.

In a land that is not this land in a time that is not this time the woman who came before her, the one who learned to love by firelight, harvests verbena and yellow dock, which she uses to make a paste to coat her pregnant belly. When the man returns to the cave he finds the woman naked, her skin covered in ash and mud. The man is afraid to touch her but the woman guides his hand into the darkest, wettest recesses of her body. When the man withdraws it, his fingers are coated in sticky red blood. The baby is coming, the woman says. And so it does. When water subsumes the highest branches of the tree, she climbs into the boat with her backpack of provisions and unties the cord. For the first mile the bear swims along side her. *Makwa*, she says, come into the boat. But the bear ignores her. *Makwa*, she says, but her hand is already waving goodbye.

The water is crowded with everything it has swept away. Occasionally she sees the corpses of animals but Makwa is no longer in sight. When she reaches the ocean there are many other boats in the water. She calls out to them but the chopping waves prevent the passage of any other sound.

Hours pass then darkness comes. Somehow, in the shadows of this violent womb, she sleeps. At dawn the horizon bleeds a pink light. All around her is water, grey and turbid. Makwa, she says just to hear the sound of her own voice. *Indaanis*, the wind replies. The ocean is becoming increasingly acidic due to atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolving into rivers, lakes, and seas. Rising acidification kills coral and depresses the metabolic rate and immune response in marine organisms.

Acidification of the world's oceans has occurred before. Fifty six million years ago there was a dramatic increase in global temperatures and carbon cycling. These changes caused mass species extinction and the sudden appearance of human progenitors, primates.

She watches the water as if fishing for something beneath its depths. But it is only a mental exercise. She knows that it is her mind that presents the biggest danger. It must be tamed or it might slip off for hours at a time only to return with a fresh kill in its mouth.

When she grows tired the voices become louder. *Indaanis*, they say, the world is only temporary. In 5 billion years the sun will cool and swell, its diameter expanding to such a degree that it will cast off its outer layers and leave only a stellar remnant behind. The gravity of passing stars will reduce the sun's retinue of planets, some being destroyed, others being ejected into interstellar space. Eventually none of the original orbiting bodies in the solar system will be left. *Ishpiming* will have no one inside of her. In the darkest hours of the night, the boat must sail itself. She dreams and in this ways connects all the disparate parts.

Memengwaa have been used to represent the principle of connection in chaos theory. One beat of its wings and a hurricane looses its eye.

Look, he says, pointing to nucleus. But it is her dream and she threads the sensitive dependencies across the horizon.

You don't understand, she says. The story of evolution is a love story. But even as she tells him this, she questions the narrative arc. When dawn comes its fragile light startles her. Her own perseverance startles her awake. The boat is still upright. The earth is still spinning. She licks her izinoo'iganininj and holds it up to the wind. It is difficult to make a prediction, but she does what she can. Tacking the sail, she heads into the blustering current of air.

She has never been alone. *Ombaashi*, lifted by sky's sweet breath.

CARLOS SOTO-ROMÁN

Says yes Says no Says maybe Says I don't know Says perhaps Says I don't think so Says probably Says tomorrow Says after tomorrow Says never

Says don't point profanity Says don't show licentious nudity Says don't mention illegal traffic Says don't mention illegal traffic Says don't display white slavery Says don't represent miscegenation Says don't mention venereal diseases Says don't depict childbirth (in fact or in silhouette) Says don't depict children's sex organs Says don't depict children's sex organs Says don't offend any nation Says don't offend any race Says don't offend any creed

Says may be considered objectionable Says may be considered harmful Says may be considered sensitive Says may be considered inconvenient

Says where do you draw the line?

Says never assert that a white person is lying Says never impute dishonorable intentions to a white person Says never suggest that a white person is from an inferior class Says never lay claim to superior knowledge or intelligence Says never curse a white person Says never laugh derisively at a white person Says never comment upon the appearance of a white female Says known knows Says we know Says we know Says known unknowns Says we know Says we don't know Says unknown unknowns Says we do not know Says we don't know Says First Amendment Says Index Librorum Prohibitorum Says I will guide thee Says with mine eye Says it is certain Says it is decidedly so Says without a doubt Says yes - definitely Says you may rely on it Says as I see it, yes Says most likely Says outlook good Says yes Says signs point to yes Says reply hazy, try again Says ask again later Says better not tell you now Says cannot predict now Says concentrate and ask again Says don't count on it Says my reply is no Says my sources say no Says outlook not so good Says very doubtful

Says 7 wonders of the world Says 7 days of creation Says 7 continents Says 7 virtues Says 7 colors of the rainbow Says 7 musical notes Says 7 days in a week Says 7 deadly sins Says Seven Says The Seven Samurais Says The Magnificent Seven Says 7 Psychopaths Says 7 dwarfs Says 7 Pillars of Wisdom Says 7 Against Thebes Says 7-Up Says 7 Eleven Says 7 Churches of Asia Says 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit Says 7 filthy words

Says George Carlin Says Lenny Bruce

Says don't air obscene Says don't air indecent Says don't air profane

Says tutti frutti Says oh Rudy Says tutti frutti Says oh Rudy Says tutti frutti Says oh Rudy Says A whop bop-a-lu Says A whop bam boo

Says _	 	 	
Says _	 	 	
Says _	 	 	
Says _			
Says _	 		
Says _			
Says _			

Says it's not protected Says it's a violation Says it's against the law

Says scientific freedom Says academic freedom Says Freedom of the press Says Freedom of speech Says Freedom of thought

Says Free will

Says thoughtcrime

Says I remember Dice yo me acuerdo Dit Je me souviens

Says better not talk about this Says don't make such a big deal Says better leave this behind Says forget about it Says this is what it is (and no more) Says this doesn't exist

Says don't know Says don't matter Says don't care Says not my problem Says none of my business Says doesn't concern me Says doesn't affect me Says has nothing to do with me

Elderly is a bi-coastal magazine Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerives-NonCommercial This is issue twenty-one (22) for 13 Jun 2017

FDT

THE BAY/NYC elderlymag.tumblr.com



