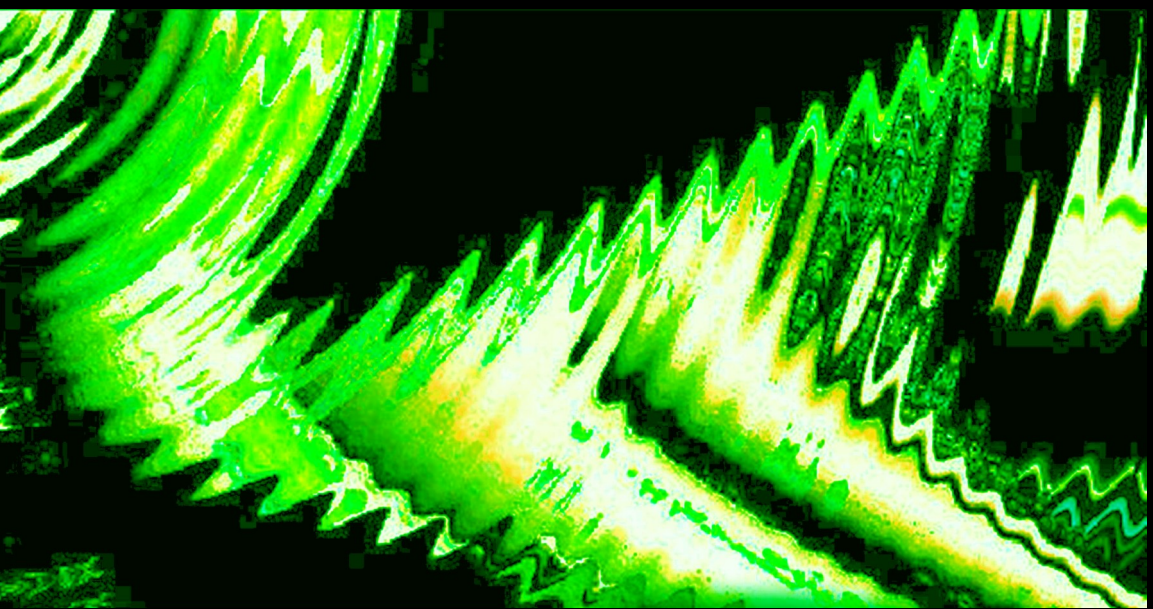


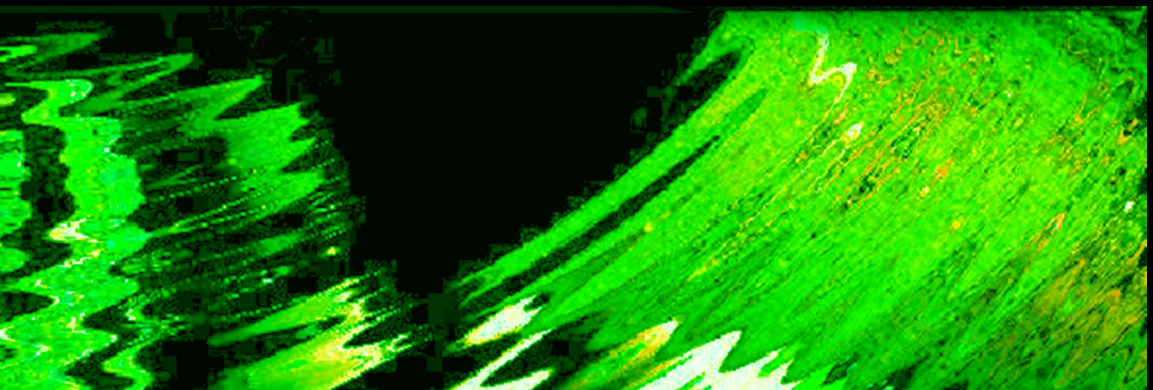


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Series Magritte



mark young



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Series Magritte

Mark Young

moria -- chicago -- 2009

Some of these poems have previously appeared in *fhole*, *MiPOesias* & *Wildlife*, & in *Pelican Dreaming: Poems 1959-2008*.

Most have appeared as posts on *mark young's Series Magritte* &/or *gamma ways*, often in different versions.

Back Cover Image: Hilary Chung

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ISBN-13 978-0-9816733-1-8
ISBN 0-9816733-1-7

first edition

moria
c/o William Allegrezza
1151 E. 56th #2
Chicago, IL 60637

<http://www.moriapoetry.com>

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Le Beau Monde

The world which
we see
clearly

is the curtain
in front
of

the
world which
Magritte clearly sees.

Les Fleurs du Mal

Je suis belle, ô mortels! comme un rêve de pierre

Charles Baudelaire: La Beauté

Sometime

I must find out

why the statues

of antiquity

had no pupils. Would

have been easy

enough to do, a

drop of paint or

use the chisel as

an apple-corer. In-

stead left blind.

Deliberate. No need

to see who calls. In-

duce the dream of

flesh beyond the

stone through

flower wide open

& eyes wide shut.

Memory

She
 stepped
 down
from her
 pedestal
& ran off
to join
a circus. Not
what she
remembered
 from her youth.
 Centuries
of standing
 still
meant
she was perfect
as the
 knife-
thrower's
assistant. Never
scratched.
But outside
the show her
 reflected
perfection
 made her
target for
the freaks
 who filled
out side-
show alley &
they drew
 blood.

The Delights of Landscape

Even if the
store-room is full
the hunter still
goes out to kill
more animals, to
cut down trees &
so remove all
groundcover. Some
thing to trade with.
Or. Fresh meat for
dinner or for the
dogs; perhaps
the head hung
in the trophy room.
The wood is set
aside, seasoned
for furniture, or used
to fuel the fire
in winter. He has
made a frame from
the best timber. The
final trophy. To be
hung in celebration
the day the hunter
comes home with
his catch-bag full,
the landscape empty.

Clear Ideas

Returning to the Moon is the key to humanity's long-term future in space.

It is a vertical project, akin to climbing a ladder. Each step has its own name, its own symbol. The symbols are not visual representations of the naming words. Nor are the names descriptive of the activity of the step. There are no milestones, only spaces between the steps.

Memory retains them thus, & can produce them to the mind whenever it has occasion to consider them.

The first step is called "A control toolbox automatically loading for no reason."
The sea is its avatar.

The Apparition

Windows on both sides leather armchair
card table foldup ping pong table. A colorful
oriental rug is seen. The colonel sat back
asking for news about the outer world. His hands
were concealed in the cloud of the horse's
lifted mane. It grew dark
in the weird silence, broken only by the
faint crack of a rifle. The white lines became
ghostlike; star-shells arched & finally melted
into the ambiguous cloud-land over the horizon.

The Call of the Peaks

Glaciers flow
out of the

painting. The
mountain is
an eagle that

does not leave
the ground.

L'Ami Intime

All I
could offer him
was

 water &
bread. But we
are good
friends, & I
forgive him
for walking out
on me.

L'Eternité

Everything that looked
on turned
away,
even
small birds
whose eyes acquired

only outline, not
the detail.
Fear
frays
the hem-
line of eternity.

Who
comes to
save us now?

The Search for the Absolute I

Held
the leaf
up to the

light.
Said. In
this one leaf

the
entire tree.
Said. Is fractal.

Is
blueprint. Is
the entire forest.

An End to Contemplation

paradoxical sleep
a recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs
in which the person is aware that he or
she is dreaming while the dream is in progress
lucid dreams

short rib ravioli (\$16) arrives on a puddle of "natural broth"
meteorite hits Peruvian village
only a fence separates Point Roberts from a bustling, strip-malled suburb & a
short commute to a hip, urban downtown

a luminous object that produced a loud sound
shaped like a cell that is about to divide
pure utopianism
filmic dissonance
essentially tests of the null hypothesis

a Foucault test uses interference patterns produced by a knife edge
to determine the deviation of a mirror from its ideal shape
Foucault the first to show how a pendulum can track Earth's rotation
mechanisms acting during human sleep

the calligram immediately decomposes & disappears
leaving as a trace only its own absence (the other Foucault)
virtual apotheosis
the sign and intensity of the acting
may be a difficult goal to realise
solutions beyond machine learning may be necessary

sisters & their lovers in verdant present-day Hanoi
a traditional city with an increasingly hip, urbane edge
the comparative effect of factual & ideological propaganda
Stalinist aesthetics suspended
at half the focal distance

cells divide
the world did not come to an end
we may be too attached to protecting our image

The Search for the Absolute II

Images &
things you can't
look in-
to. Gödel
again. The
absolute is so
uncertain. But
I have just killed
a small flying
thing that
landed on the
reproduction
in my Magritte
book & it is
now absolute-
ly dead.

Le Voix du Sang

Gödel once
more. If a
forest is cut down
so that only
a single tree
remains, is
what is left
still part of the
set of forests? Let's
ask the people
living inside
the tree &
see what they
have to say.
There's a light on.

Memory of a Journey III

I know we sidetracked
to see where the
troglodytes had
lived. Other than that
think bridges gone
over, under, or
danced upon. & lines—
train, coke, telephone.
Somewhere we had
antipasto, & drank. Not
too much, just enough
to make conversation
easy & company
complicated. Towards
the end the waiter
brought a bowl of
fruit. We peeled the
oranges & fed the seg-
ments to each other.
We left the apples.

The Interpretation of Dreams

1) *The Acacia*

The arid regions
of Senegal
act as an incubator
for the
gum arabic tree.

2) *The Moon*

A soft
moon shuffle
by the light
of the
silvery shoe.

3) *The Snow*

The bowl of
night is
black
& filled
with white.

4) *The Ceiling*

ceiling
wax
lyrical

5) *The Storm*

The sky
has that angular
clarity that
often precedes
a change in
the weather.

6) The Desert

Only when the
last nail
is put in place
does it be-
come apparent
that all along
it was a
mirage that he
was building.

The Palace of Curtains

The curtains
drawn. Same

thing on both.
Sky. The sky.

Neither is.

Discourse on Method

Having
suffered
through 17
symposia
convened
by L'Académie
Francaise
on Le Discours
de la Méthode

& fearing
he was
about to be
pushed be-
yond the
bounds of
rational
thought

Descartes
discarded
his wig
& his silk
breeches
& hose
& headed
for the
nearest
leather bar
muttering

“Who gives
a fuck what
anybody
thinks. I am
what I am.”

Le Trait d'Union

The male	There it
flower	encounters
breaks off	the female.
& rises	
to the	Birds
surface of	grow.
the water.	
	The use

of hyphens with adverbs is redundant unless an identical adjective exists.

Philosophy in the Bedroom #2

Some times
we keep
our fetishes
in the closet.

Sometimes
we wear
them out.

The Man with the Newspaper

for Hannah Weiner

Each depends
upon the other. The
man with the news-
paper, the room
pretending
he isn't there.

Perspective: Madame Récamier de David

In this fromage to
Jacques Louis David
Magritte has
copied his portrait
of Madame Récamier
in intricate detail
right down to
the shy smile & the
burnished bronze
of the coffin handles.

This is not an apple

It is the
most realistic
of his apples.
Slight blem-
ishes, variants
of colour. Leaves
& scissor-cut
stalk. It is
what the painter
says it isn't.

La Belle Idée

I start to tidy up
the tapestry. The unicorns
worry me. Not the one
all gleaming white &
shiny-horned, it's the
other, the one with
the shades & lycra bike
shorts who's lurking—
can unicorns lurk?—who's
hanging out then, there
by the castle gate,
waiting for some corn maiden
to come tripping out
on her way to the
fields where he will follow
& (impale her)². Only
just then the Lord
of the Castle comes
riding up with his entourage
who all have earpieces that
drift down into their
chainmail & steely eyes
that scan the crowd, a-
lighting on the unicorn
who pretends he's looking
at postcards in a market stall
before sliding back off
into the background &
back to his nighttime job
in a porn theatre where
the prurient masses pay
to watch some corny maiden
get impaled by a quadruped
with a condom/inium on his head.

The Hesitation Waltz

It could be
embarrassing
not even having
two left feet
to get around
the dancefloor
on, but the
apples have
mastered
the complex
pauses of
the hesitation
waltz so well
they now
are forced to
enter dance
competitions
in disguise.

Ceci est un Morceau de Fromage

The
problem
with
truth is
that it's
often
falsely
painted &
hard to
swallow.

Threatening Weather I

Not enough to hear
the words. Had to see
how the mouth
curved around
them, how far the
tongue came forward,
how heavily the teeth
bit down. Only then
could he under-
stand their intent.

Le Musée d'un Nuit

It is
an over-
night stop, a
motel of
memory,
where some
of the guests
have the
provenance
to dis-
play them-
selves &
others
stay hidden
& wait
for room
service.

La Magie Noire

Usually the second name is abstract, the name of a Madonna.

A naked woman leans on a rock. Evolving, gradually merging into

the blue sky. Sometimes a bird sits on her shoulder. Conjunction & invocations

are the basis of her formal syntax. Earthbound, yet otherworldly. Hanukkah gelt.

Not Esperanza but some bird-name is revealed in the first chapter. More Americans

believe in a literal hell & the devil than in Darwin's theory of evolution. The

second section describes some practices children engage in. Black magic.

Les Amants

Is the love
still physical

if, when the
face masks

are removed,
the body

floats
 away?

On the Threshold of Freedom

It was then that we
arrived, too late
to influence, but not
too late to interfere.

The Difficult Crossing

Hand holds the
frightened messenger. Even
the bilboquet looks
scared. Lightning; &
waves that reach
across the ship
to shake hands on
the other side. Walls wait
with spaces cut
to hold the windows.
Later the curtain
will come down.

The Anger of the Gods

Most of the day they
paced themselves,
taking it in turns
to ride, to drive, to
sit behind. But as they
neared the top of
Mt Olympus, the gods
grew angry at such
equality & pushed the car
a little faster. Nothing
seemed to change inside.
On the roof the rider
struggled to survive.

A found homophone

I go into Google
looking for a link
for The Anger of
the Gods. Type in
the title. Only
text references. I
re-enter, this time
in French, *La Colère
des Dieux*. The re-
sponse: Did you mean
"la couleur des deux"?
I misread *deux* as *yeux*.
No, I reply, I already
know what color
the eyes are. Octavio
Paz once gave me
a blue bouquet.

Hegel's Holiday

A glass to
keep the water
in, an umbrella
to keep it out.
Joined together.
Thesis / antithesis /
synthesis. Hegel
went off on
a holiday. All the
work done for him.

The Tomb of the Wrestlers

In what
was the
listening-
room

a
rose

has re-
placed
the
apple

is a
rose

& placed

a sleeper-
hold

is a
rose

on
this rude
stein-girt
domain.

L'Esprit de Géométrie

Most
of us
would say
the faces
have
been ex-
changed

but to the
mathematical
mind it is
more a
trans-
position of
figures.

The Mathematical Mind

There is no
mantissa — all parts
are present &
counted for. But
the present is the
sum of parts of
the past; the
past is memory.
Sometimes there
is transposition
in transcription.

Musings of a Solitary Walker

He does not think
about the water
he walks
beside. He walks
without it. Another
river. The Sambre.
His mother's
suicide by drowning,
her nightdress a
veil around her face
but that's another
painting. This is
the Rue Morgue,
levitation, the corpse
laid bare. He does not
think about her. She
is a disquieting muse.
He leaves her behind
on the bridle-path,
walks on alone. Apples
& umbrellas will
eventually overtake him.

The Lost World

In the surrounding
countryside
trees define
the type of horse
that might be found
there. The contours
suggest a woman's
body; but with a
different angularity
some have seen
it as an empty
bowl of fruit. A figure
loses its memory
along with its outline.
Words wilt in the
winter heat. There
are no dinosaurs.

The Ready-Made Bouquet

Ever the
bourgeois, never
daring to be seen
out wearing Botticelli's
naked Venus. Leave
her at home on her
halfshell, alongside the
clip-on ties. Wear
the clothed one. &
even then embarrassed.
Worn behind. So that.
One or the other. Her,
or his face. Never
both together.

The Search for Truth

is
difficult
if you're
a fish

&
out
of
water

& you
don't
realize
that

what
you've
found
is

what
you were
looking
for.

Souvenir de Voyage

Light travels
between
cultures &
continents at
its own speed,
remembering
where it's been
through multi-
tudinous
museums to
keep mementoes
in & a
sophisticated
mnemonic
technique
for learning
long lists. The
old also move
at their own
pace, but
keep it
simple, visit
few places,
retain few
keepsakes. That
they are
petrified by
travel is shown
by what they
bring back. A
good thing they
travel light.

The Flowers of the Abyss I

Hélas! tout est abîme
wrote Baudelaire—*all is
abyss*, a completely
automated world of self-
assembling machine-flowers
made possible by an
emergent form of video
expression. Each change
brings out new curves in
the shoreline; in the same
ambient space there is a
region where the perception
of the image is still affected
by the dead blue screen. A
message appears to say
there is a problem with
the file. *All windows
bare the infinite to me.*

The Flowers of the Abyss II

A curious eclipse—
traffic regulations now
require night to have
a bell that absorbs
light without refraction
fitted to it. Times past,
an event happened, we
rushed out & ran to it
in rampant schaden-
freude. But this is no
accident, is mechanistic;
so we stay within the
ice-blue interior of a bare
carcass of concrete &
play chase the dog or
describe Nigeria or clean
graffiti off the wreaths &
potpourri. Shorn of its
exits the sun is quiet.
Time stands still, bells
hang heavy in the air.

The Meaning of Night

The man walks
away from him-
self, the woman
hides in her hair.

They ignore each
other. Wherever
they are, neither
is dressed for it.

All around there
are fallen clouds.
There is no moon,
faint light, the man

casts a shadow. The
woman cannot
see it. It is night
inside her hair.

La Ruse Symétrique

At 4.30 he
brought
the clothes in
off the
line. A
nightdress
was missing;
so, too, his
mother. Weeks
later they
were found,
water-logged
& with a
symmetry
she never
had in life.

Les Six Éléments

As of this
writing, there

are 137 Magritte
items available

on eBay. They are
mundanely pre-

sented—none of
the six elements

that Aristotle con-
sidered essential

for drama are
in the frame.

L'Amour Désarmé

The key-
words—

Clothing, Military, People, Religion, Transportation, Headwear, Army, Adults, Groups, Naked People, Woman, Women, Christianity, Religious, Land, Hats, Soldiers, Christian, Cart, Wearing, Clothes, Armed Forces, Transport, Head Wear, Adult, Group, Naked, Nude, Female, Lady, Females, Ladies, troops, Combatants, Kneeling, Tying, Weapons, Outdoor, Helmets, Armour, Swords, Square, Kneel, Kneels, Outside, Outdoors, Exterior, Exteriors, Open air, Openair, Armor, Weapon, Sword, Triumph of Chastity, Love, Disarmed, Bound, edifying, historical legendary, Petrucci palace, Penelope, Suitors, Rome, Signorelli, Trionfi, Triumphs, god of love, bound by Laura, ideal, chaste, Petrarch's poetry, Lucretia, chaste heroines of antiquity, heroes, Romans, Caesar, Scipio Africanus, exhibits, prisoner, triumphal car, victory, tied, path, arrest, caught, chasing, wings, virtue

—are else-
where.

The Promised Land

I do not know what the
19th century saw in
the letter S. Perhaps
its classic look re-
minded them of the
sex & violence that
were once associated
with pressed metal
ceilings. These days
even the private space
of public figures
is made from wood.

The Night Watch

i. The endocrinology

I stroll out to Wilshire Boulevard.
A group of part-time soldiers are setting out on parade.
There are bits missing.
A lot of raw fish has a tendency to do that.
"I'm a NASCAR fan," she said at a
birthday party in little osaka one recent night.

ii. The interval between first & second sleep

Marie-Ange sounded determined.
It was reflected in
her elegant handcuffs.

iii. Prolactin, a pituitary hormone

There's no longer a difference between theatre & shadow—
"I saw Brazil last night, Terry Gillem. Never saw it before. It was boring. I had
to watch Chronicles of Riddick to clear my head of that junk."
Today I get to prep for a colonoscopy.

iv. Unlike meditation

Montanna's
just a
pathetic
wannabe troll
with no sense.

v. Altered consciousness

He prepared a candle-lit gourmet dinner
that would end up being eaten

by the mangy dog on the front lawn.

vi. Benign states

The babysitter got bored & went to watch TV.

The Listening Room

Climate change & predictions of future climates have never had any particular significance for me. Theories are not statements about the world. To that end I have done numerous interviews for radio, television & the print media as a prophet who ascertains through divination that the apple we experience is just a bundle of sensations in synchronism; there is no way that we can affirm there really is an apple.

The Literal Meaning II

salon hair
gods false
trap death
bell door
rail guard
balance trial
idea bright
time prime
spectrum broad
room drawing
avant post
black token
drama high
fire forest

The Annunciation

Squeeze the symbolism for all it's worth. Olive trees in an otherwise barren & rocky landscape, the simulated organ, the confessional latticework. No real people, not even footprints. Wooden bilboquets have turned into pawns & vainly wait for someone to move them. It's a sterile oasis in a forty-day desert, which someone once found, announced its discovery & was famous ever after.

La Plaine de l'Air

Even though the air
is an unstable
medium at best, the
tree, a plain text
ASCII file made of
everyday materials &
the common language
of commercial signage,
stands unmoved. Else-
where, the German
Army is entering Paris.

The Ladder of Fire

He had noted the nesting order—how the paper fit inside the bell of the tuba & it, in turn, rested on the chair—so that, once this fire was over, they could be neatly stored until the next time he had need of them.

The Adulation of Space

Try to unfold complex
polyhedra & the
kinetic barriers
create a problem—the
configuration of power
no longer holds when
automata are abstracted
by collapsing their
states. There is between
the universal &
particular a reciprocal
tension that cannot be
confined within an
allocated space. It's a core
drawback of pattern re-
cognition, made more
so in the figurative
when flesh holds sway.

Memory

All I
can re-
call is a
bas-relief
head
between
a near-
full glass
of water
& an
apple.

The
apple had
blood
on it.

Les Pas Perdus

Maybe aerobic exercise is just as effective as medication in treating stress; but the idea of punishing the material form by sweating it out in the gym is not my idea of fun, doesn't even move me to a basic level of arousal. I'd rather go to a traditional Chinese medicine establishment where they give full-body massage or take a trip to the discothèque where there are no wasted steps, where the cognitive components of dancing counterpoint the theme of survival & may in some way relate to everyday functioning.

The Scars of Memory

Every time there's
even the slightest
scent of censure in
the wind, winter
emigrates. Reincarnates
itself as a wandering
Mariachi carrying only
an icy cold pitcher of
vermillion in its guitar
case. In stark contrast
the rest of us go
stereotypically retro
& relive the 1920s,
not sure how we got
there or why we've
ended up channeling
Shakespeare in some
hell-drenched backporch
reliquary of the mind.

The Present

Most birds fly. Aeroplanes are almost able to, achieve flight only by manoeuvring in the air as they start to fall out of it.

La Page Blanche

Echoing
both science &
religion, Magritte
suggests there
can be no
such thing as
a blank page
since the
invisible is
everywhere
just waiting
to be made
visible.

Reconnaissance Without End

for Márton Koppány & Nico Vassilakis

One should conceal
the fact that one
is an adept, said Mr
Behoover to his
Hungarian friend, &
that it takes an
endless supply of
lifetimes learning
how to become one.
Don't advertise. Adopt
a slightly eccentric but
innocuous code of dress —
1920's bourgeois with
its coats & sticks &
bowler hats is good —
then join a self-focused
group like Cloud Gazers
Anonymous where every-
one's heads are lost in
them & no-one notices
if you forget your-
self & start to levitate.

La Lumière des Coïncidences

Optical efficiency.
The angles. The
candle is illuminated
by the woman's
torso. In
turn, re-
sponse. Refraction.
Light bounces
back. Angles
again. & curves
of shadows. A
scientific fact,
no coincidence.

Threatening Weather II

Mainstream American theology —
a.k.a. "the spinach capital of the
world" — informs this picture of
Yosemite Fall; but the efforts
of humanity to liberate imagination
are found more in dance &
ritual than in the sadly artless
subtitles of theology. In the
tea room of the sky we sip
non sequiturs & sup on slices
of graffiti peeled from real
railroad cars. The weather
threatens. It's what we came for.

The Happy Donor

Aporia. The man
a product of a past
which was. Never
his. Constructed
from: metaphors
in a language no-
one speaks. Not
any: more. De-
constructed to
display symbols.
Not symbolic of
anything. Are
reference, points
to earlier paintings.
First used. Were
simple objects.
Given here. All
together. Symbolize
the painter. Not the
man. A bell. Out-
side the man. Is
real. Is the product
of a past. Was real.
Outside the man
the man is real. The
bell rings silently
to announce the dis-
mantling of its own
rhetoric. Aporia.

Les Promenades d'Euclide

The first events in the nursery are metamorphosis & settlement. Vertical fluxes may vary depending on the timescale; but all retain the essential features of prediction equations—satisfying the conservation of mass & total energy. Any method that alters the data, whether by swapping, random noise or erasure decoding, is rejected by the differential circuitry. A monosyllabic type must produce harmony if the enclitic is unelided. As yet, there are no significant rock/non-rock preferences.

It's all pretty standard practice, but motorcycle seats can be very uncomfortable so it's no surprise that a lot of money & brainpower are going toward customizing supply chain solutions. Now restrooms are open to the public & are wheelchair accessible. The saving grace of the nuclear family in history was the extended family that surrounded it.

By the time that David Bowie took his final bow from the whole touring scene at London's Hammersmith Odeon in July 1973, efforts to bridge the gap between phenomenology & the principles derived from perturbative & nonperturbative quantum chromodynamics (QCD) were an essential part of American pop culture.

New Year's Day this year fell on the Day of the Rat. The force between quarks does not diminish as they are separated.

Memory

SOUVENIR
SOUVENI
SOUVEN
SOUVE R
SOUV ER
SOU IER
SO LIER
S BLIER
UBLIER
OUBLIER

L'Assassin Menacé

Il est si calme or
whatever the
colloquial French is
for staying cool
under pressure. Though
strangely inappropriate;
for the cool criminals
of the time were
not assassins but
mainly jewel thieves, a
long line of, mostly
fictional, Fantomas &
Raffles through to (if
not, should be) Sean
Connery. This is
more the following
fin de siècle, maybe
that's what he's
waiting for, the iPod
to replace His Master's
Horn & Hannibal
to get down off
his elephant &
take his place
on center stage.

The Discovery of Fire

In the evening, before the sun set, she would write down those things that had caught her interest during the day. At one time or another she had noticed that she could tell how long she'd been away from home, how long before she had to head back, by the length of the shadows & the direction in which they pointed; how when seen through the smoke from bushfires the sun had a form to it. She noted the way animals tracked & trapped, or how they hid from one another, beneath surfaces or assuming the colour of them. She worked out the cycles of plants, & was no longer surprised by the way fish would reappear from beneath the surface of dry lagoons when they started filling with rain.

Today, as the heavy rain clouds moved down from the north—direction was a concept she was still formulating, but she knew where the sun rose & where it set, & she also knew that, at different times, if she stood facing the sunrise, the hot wetness would come from that side of her face, & the even hotter dryness would approach from the other—she saw a bolt of lightning strike a tree, setting the oil inside it alight. She recalled a smaller spark she had once seen, when a flint axe brandished in anger had struck a cliff of a particular rock rather than the head at which it was aimed. She extrapolated; & realised that if she could find something combustible to trap the spark in she would no longer have to wait to find fire in the wild, would be spared the task of nurturing it, keeping it alive, something that took her away from the composite act of gathering food, information, insight. By forcing two objects into contact with one another she could produce something greater than them both, usually invisible, but there in the air, waiting to be called forth.

In this way Promethea discovered, first, poetry, & then fire.

Portrait of Georgette Magritte

sine

qua

non

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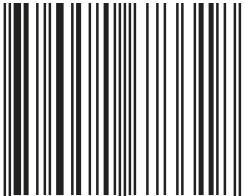
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