UNPROTECTED PRACTICE:
Including Process as Compositional Material

2.1.2.2.2 I _____ the hard way

Documentation

Paul Norman

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Birmingham City University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

September 2017

The Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, Birmingham City University
(Birmingham Conservatoire)

Us two to sup on the same skin
Neither poisoned air or lost glance

A moment bound in invisible chains
Paralysis in unseen means
Finally bound by a sword's claim
...for now...now for not...
Time for the primordial wolf to run
I will become worse than raised sulfur
Abyssal black coats my fur
Witness ravenous indigestion
In my liberation
Jaws from earth to the heavens
Perhaps my most emulate or prescient self
...I found you...
In unsound bowls, in devouring the run
In consuming the moca
Dined, dined, framed, lid
Fangs and claws
The irator of unskilled rampage
Bit the virtuous hand rur chained me
ARTWORK AND POETRY

JOANNE CLEMENT is a Ph.D. student in Creative Writing at Newcastle University and Poet in Residence at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. Under the supervision of Sean O’Brien and W. N. Herbert, Joanne’s AHRC-funded thesis is entitled “Poems from Xylography: Thomas Bewick and Elphinstone Vaticans Points.” Her practice-led research explores the connections between the printmaking processes of Bewick’s eighteenth-century tale-pieces, identifying and employing ways of re-seeing to write a new sequence of verse. In 2012, Joanne was awarded a Northern Promise prize by New Writing North. More recently, she was shortlisted for the Melita Hume and Bridport Poetry prizes. Joanne also has had her work published by the Black Lion Engine Books, Bannister’s Dog, Forward, Oi! and Mützith, the Journal of the Society of Wood Engravers. Her poem, “Wood Potent,” is an ekphrastic response to the experience of viewing William Hilton’s oil portrait of the poet John Clare (1828).

LUCY GARRETT is a Ph.D. student in the School of Biosciences at the University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on the social and genetic structure of seabird colonies. Using the same tools for understanding human social networks, she is investigating the impacts of social network theory on such things as bird breeding and nesting habits. Her original artwork, entitled “Am I in your network?” is a linocut print of Masked Boobies which was inspired by her experiences whilst on Ascension Island, her study site. Though her focal species are a different type of seabird, the Sooey Turn, her image invokes the overall aim of her study which hopes to identify the processes that underlie the formation of social bonds and colony structure in group nesting seabirds.

PAUL NORMAN is a composer and MSc AHRC-funded Ph.D. candidate at BCU Birmingham Conservatoire. His research explores ways of including process as compositional material. As a child, Paul had a collection of badges. One of his favourites said, “I climbed Snowdon the hard way.” Today, with the piece “I _____ the hard way,” Paul wonders why we don’t celebrate doing many things “the hard way.” Perhaps, if we did, we may just allow ourselves to have fun looking at our own actions and considering that there may be a more challenging, but also more satisfying way to do them.

JOHN MARC WILSON is a Ph.D. candidate at Aberystwyth University, Wales. His main research focuses include: contemporary literature; remediation; memory and time structures; and the dynamics of literary technology. He has presented at numerous conferences ranging from interdisciplinary perspectives on the nature of hypertextual societies to more traditional concerns such as what constitutes a novel. He has published an article, “A Palpable Void” which discusses the remediation of Bruno Schulz’s The Street of Crocodiles as Jonathan Safran Foer’s original work, Tree of Cod. John Marie is also a member of the Spurious Society of North American Studies and the Modern Language Association.

EDITORIAL TEAM

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR

RUTH CADDICK completed her undergraduate degree in English at the University of Birmingham in 2012, returning there to complete an M.Res. in Medieval Studies in 2014. Ruth’s MRes. thesis investigated the relationship between magic and identity in Older Scots romance, and she has presented on this topic at conferences in Edinbugh and Germany. She is now in her second year of Ph.D. study at the University of Birmingham, producing an edition of the Older Scots romance Clariola.

NOTES EDITOR

CHARLOTTE BARNES is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Birmingham, currently studying in the department of Creative Writing and Film. After completing her undergraduate degree at the University of the West of England, Bristol, she moved to the University of Birmingham to complete her M.A. in Creative Writing and, following that, opted to continue her studies further. Charlotte’s research interests are based around the role of gender stereotyping and gender manipulation in crime and detective fiction, with a particular emphasis on violence in female characters.

POETRY EDITOR

ROSEMARY WORSLEY is a professionally-trained classical musician who has owned and run her own music school for 25 years. She is currently in the second year of her M.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. Rosemary has made her appearance on a number of television shows and is also a member of several drama groups, operatic societies and choirs in nearby Solihull.

92