

Fall 2004

**Manuel is destroying
my bathroom...**

by
Latasha N. Nevada Diggs



belladonna* books

458 Lincoln Place, Suite 4B Brooklyn, NY 11238

www.durationpress.com/belladonna



deadly nightshade, a cardiac and respiratory stimulant, having purplish-red flowers and black berries



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belladonna* production and design, Bill Mazza.
It is set in Geneva, ITC Calson Medium and Bold, and ITC Officiana Sans.

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belladonna* is a reading series that promotes the work of women writers who
are adventurous, experimental, politically involved, multi-form, multi-cultural,
multi-gendered, impossible to define, delicious to talk about, unpredictable,
dangerous with language.

Rachel Levitsky and Erica Kaufman, editors, belladonna* books.
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belladonna* catalog

2000

1. Mary Burger, *Eating Belief* OOP
2. Camille Roy, *Dream Girls* OOP
3. Cecilia Vicuña, *Bloodskirt*,
trans. Rosa Alcalá OOP
4. Fanny Howe, parts from *Indivisible*
5. Eleni Sikelianos, from *The Book of Jon*
6. Laura Mullen, *Translation Series* OOP
7. Beth Murray, *12 Honors* OOP
8. Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, *Audience* OOP
9. Laura Wright, *Everything Automatic* OOP

2002

21. Deborah Richards, *Put A Feather In It*
22. Norma Cole, *BURNS*
23. Jocelyn Saldenberg, *Dusky*
24. Gail Scott, *Bottoms Up* OOP
25. Carla Harryman, *DIMBLUE* and *Why Yell*
26. Anne Waldman, *[THINGS] SEEN/UNSEEN* OOP
27. kari edwards, *a diary of lies* OOP
28. Bhanu Kapil Rider, from *The Wolf Girls of Midnapore* OOP
29. Rosmarie Waldrop, *Trace Histories* OOP
30. Tina Darragh, from *rule of dumbs*
31. Chris Tysh, *Mother, I*
(fragment of a film script)
32. Jennifer Moxley, *The Occasion*
33. Zhang Er, *Cross River . Pick Lotus*
34. Tonya Foster, *A Swarm Of Bees In High Court*
35. Lauren Gudath, *Animal & Robot*
36. Alice Notley, *IPHIGENIA*

2004

53. Joanna Fuhrman, *Belladonna* Moraine*
54. Nada Gordon, *SONg of My OWnself*
55. Catherine Daly, *Surplice*
56. Caroline Bergvall, *GONG*
57. Maria Negroni, *Art and Fugue*
58. Lourdes Vázquez, *May the transvestites of my island who tap their heels*
59. Belladonna* Bilingue: *Womens Work In Translation* (vol. 1)
60. Belladonna* Bilingue: *Womens Work In Translation* (vol. 1)
61. Jaimy Gordon, *A Month of Love*
62. Rachel Daley, *You and Me Story*
63. Latasha N. Nevada Diggs, *Manuel is destroying my bathroom...*
64. Joan Retallack, *THEREINVENTIONOFTRUTH*

2001

10. Lisa Jarnot, *Nine Songs* OOP
11. Kathleen Fraser, *Soft Pages*
12. Rachel Blau DuPlessis, *Draft 43: Gap*
13. Nicole Brossard, *Le Cou de Lee Miller/The Neck of Lee Miller* OOP
14. Lee Ann Brown, *The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Reverse Mermaid* OOP
15. Adeena Karasick, *The Arugula Fugues VII-VIII* OOP
16. Aja Couchois Duncan, *Commingled : Sight*
17. Lila Zemborain, *PAMPA* OOP
18. Cheryl Pallant, *Spontaneities*
19. Lynne Tillman, chapters from *Weird Fucks* and "Dead Talk" OOP
20. Abigail Child, *Artificial Memory*—
vol 1 & vol 2 (\$6 set) OOP

2003

37. Caitlin Mcdonnell, *Dreaming the Tree*
38. Eileen Myles, *We, the Poets*
39. Suzanne Wise, from *The Blur Model*
40. Lydia Davis, *Cape Cod Diary*
41. Elaine Equi, *Castle, Diamond, Swan*
42. Maggie Nelson, *Something Bright, Then Holes*
43. Summi Kaipa, "One: I Beg You, Be Still" from *Was. Or Am.*
44. Julie Patton, "Car Tune" & *Not So Bella Donna*
45. Joan Larkin, *Boston Piano*
46. Minnie Bruce Pratt, *The Money Machine: Selected Poems*
47. Anne Tardos, *A Noisy Nightingale Understands a Tiger's Camouflage Totally*
48. Michelle Naka Pierce, *48 Minutes Left*
49. Veronica Corpuz, *Untitled*
50. Leslie Scalapino, "Can't" is 'Night'
51. Jen Benka, *A Revisioning of the Preamble*
52. Susan Briante, *Neotropics: A Romance in Field Notes.*

Pamphlets are published in conjunction with the belladonna* reading series and are between 6 and 20 pages in length. Books are \$4 each; \$6 signed editions; add 50¢ postage per item. Checks payable to Rachel Levitsky.

ways. the silent tip toe when passing after i've spoken. here & not so there. mocked (&) admired. *strangers are kinder to me*. the trees accept my pedagogy. i only desire to translate the wind and later, the sigh of my lover. this SpaCe says you'll understand when its done. everyone can't live <harmoniously w/ abstraction>. there are no belts of degrees, no platinum necklace, no 12inch rims rewarded for being in (between). no car to pImP here. just a person. in (between) schools of school of schools of schools. you may or may not like me. but you can't sleep on these <disturbances in dexterity>.

to be continued...

Harlem, NYC
August 2004

broken kotoba¹

(a macaronic verse)

asunto mio

arimasu una gameboy

yochi na

tapestry
is binago tula

dodging

tuwid

hacia un hanran o okosu

sorry so so sorry

deja,

the nagágalit

under tide of unification

is a genial pustule
picked upon

ryui suru

eso boredom

¹ Broken Language is written in Spanish, Japanese, Tagalog English and French. It reads: My business/be a gameboy/Childish/tapestry/is reformed verse/dodging/straight/towards a mutiny/Sorry so sorry/Already/the indignant/under tide of unification/is a genial pustule/picked upon/Keep in mind/ this boredom.

blind date

(a sound poem)

network cheesy van halen rock riffle
benny hill slapstick grapefruit hater
Idaho coppertop jaws jibber

flat matt designer adobe™

graph-o-matic

the video profile:

sassy southern bell open minded per photographer
likes men who are sincere

divorced fun lovin' whino mid-life cruiser earth hipster
"goes for girls with a butt"

beef eater chatterbox guzzler
jaeuzzi silicone

honey bunny

"is eric's down to earth attitude what earle is looking for?"
"can rrrrrriceo be the z lover not the fighter elizabeth needs"

e.p.i.s.o.d.e. 3.18.02

washer board back side
speed bar candy factory
body paint mud bath
lap up a ham hock for a belly dance

taxi ride escort
eye doctor overboard

her bikini lini maxi plops spots on g-strings
jail house tattoo on his boo boo ain't water proof
waddle waddle id to ego to no goodbye kiss

poker shot pucker diss the vagina
and please flash the juicy flat-liner

"once you go rican you never go seekin"

On being in (between) SpaCe

A rough meditation

here & there. if so (&) thus. pavements & grass. when you see me,
you'll see nothing. there & somewhere. far (&) stunted. reason
& denial. i am what you !can not! understand nor want to join in
membership. i am <someone> who isn't always here. i am what
you'd LiKe but fear the pressure of being. i am the SpaCe not at
all comfortable. a SpaCe that demands shapes to shift. i am not sci-
entific. i am not pop politics nor perfected syntax. i am a marvel
comic gone to live in the slums between <visibility & erasure>. not
exactly mutant. not quite a !heroine! stuffed in a refrigerator. just
an illustration between trace & free hand. crooned (&) arranged.
typed & cross-hatched in charcoal. is it too much to ask why you're
ok w/ what i do when what i do is struggling to do what you detest
from a genre? or am i a new species of <something>? am i a crea-
ture <out of place> in a gangster/ish vortex of <words & jugglers>?
the hunchback heretic who communicates in babelish guloosh? the
mumbler who can only be reasoned w/ through a sean connery w/
cloak & cross? or have i confused you just a shy too much w/ pop
culture? the remote control could disenfranchise you. you could turn
me off but you may miss <something>. you may not (hear) the
loop. you may not hear (the) loop. you may not hear the (loop). hap-
hazardly, i embody the regrets of puritans making do to desensitize
my pressure points. manuals read half/assed, i attempt to deny the
mistake. by misunderstanding digital & analog frequencies, i inhibit
this SpaCe to further re/define language & human/ism. there is no
clear comprehension of sentence structure. <only macaronics>. a
hand full of catchy hook lines. endless stress headaches. if so &
thus, you'll find yourself presumptuous towards my doing if your
suggestions shun this manifesto in the process. i am not a voiceover
nor am i not a synth player. i am not (at times) a writer. most of
what i do retrogrades. maybe i could help you to understand. i am
(between) the hand (&) cheek. i am the hesitation in your hello. i
am the <ego> that curls your mouth & forces your eyes to roll side

the seventh tile *from Dominata*

was born between translation
to keep even with passing

lost before hills
ivory called me to stone

for symmetry's sake
was born to settle one's fuss

a courtyard bone spread
six halves from my blood

mission towards a seven
making me a suit

evenly

dates on dry trails and skirts
full of pepper and sour sap

still lost, a farmer's market has little choice

my presence relative
on Malcom's Blvd

with no pips, 28 Bonito is memory
caught in slack pidgin

here no caste to class
here no longer military
here no longer civil

just a blank

...forgotten any personal property?

in response to gary simmons erasure series

dummy cheek	keys
dummy cheek	wallet
dummy cheek	toothpaste
dummy cheek	haircomb
dummy cheek	hair grease
dummy cheek	condoms
dummy cheek	tampons
dummy cheek	passport
dummy cheek	social security card
dummy cheek	telephone book
dummy cheek	american express
dummy cheek	scarf
dummy cheek	purse
dummy cheek	eyeglasses
dummy cheek	reading glasses
dummy cheek	notebook
dummy cheek	pen
dummy cheek	gloves
dummy cheek	traveler's checks
dummy cheek	jaeket
dummy cheek	deodorant
dummy cheek	headphones
dummy cheek	vibrator

la loca ningyo

(a macaronic verse)³

el oishii zutsu eró gran confusión

la ningyo, gunya-gunya y flaqueza

se comio el subarashii arufabeto a todo la carrera

canto canto, jinruigaku

no podemos hacer mucho mas con sekiri

ni se me pasó por la cabeza que tu

una yochi na zasshu

en eso donguri gijutsu, no me interesa

isha! bokusa! estupefacto sagishi!

hace mucho que esperas?

tenia los dedos en carne viva!

tenia los dedos en carne viva!

hace mucho que esperas mi kaku

no tatsu no otoshigo?

³ "La loca ningyo" or the "Crazy mermaid" is written in Spanish and Japanese. It reads: The delicious headache caused havoc/The mermaid, flabby and weak in character/She'd rushed through the admirable alphabet/singing anthropology/"There's not much we can do with dysentery/It never entered my head that you were a childish mongrel/That acorn technique, I'm not interested/Doctor! Boxer! Superficial swindler/ You've been waiting long? /My fingers were raw! My fingers were raw!/You've been waiting long my imaginary sea horse?"

yemmu from *Dominata*⁶

nervous moves make weapons
but the whirlpools were me

panoramas of ebony pips
formalized doubles

with licks

maybe ignored
you won't forgot

der's no green river like my sister's in New York

where the Honduran women freckle with salt
soca plays & shirts fold themselves

here the scent of laundry
is the back door of home

forget banana boat & man-made canal
where mosquito killed the pallid before

I healed the bites of blood suckers
washed the mud slide from you

so be nice foil my backside
lay carbon this *woman thigh*⁷

I arrived long before bottled jerk

⁶ This poem and the following is from a series of work written in collaboration with choreographer Gabri Christa for a performance premiering in September at Dance Theatre Workshop in NYC.

⁷ Taken from the poem "Lead Belly" written by Tyhemba Jess.

pistology⁵

(a macaronic verse)

kyooryoku na transmitter de cielo
blessed visor de imagen
captured hoshano of hikari

dotekina kinescope
globalizing sounds unit modulation
fallacious shizukesa

fukyu no meisaku! fukyu no meisaku! fukyu no meisaku!

anata wa absorb my peripherals
contrasting en medio real time y
buffy la matar de vampiro

azucarado reflection of stale teenologia
suteru realism
my gabriel blow horn de propaganda

fukyu no meisaku! fukyu no meisaku! fukyu no meisaku!

mediator of media
grocery bag stuffer of life's
marketed indulgenees
yo reso para te

mi amplified padre
mi prime time okaasan

watakushi no/closed captioned espiritu santo

by broadcast...

you are my sagrada communion
you are my anti christ

⁵ In the tradition of macaronic verse, the poem is written in three languages, English, Japanese and Spanish. It reads: Mighty transmitter of heaven/Blessed view finder/Captured radiation of radiance/Color kinescope/ Globalizing sound unit-modulation/Fallacious peace/Immortal masterpiece/You absorb my peripherals/ Contrasting between real time/And Buffy the vampire slayer/Sweet reflection of stale technology/Giver of realism/My Gabriel blow-horn of propaganda/Immortal masterpiece/Mediator of media/Grocery bag stuffer of life's marketed indulgenees/I pray to you/My amplified father/My prime-time mother/My closed captioned Holy Ghost/By broadcast/You are my holy communion/You are my anti Christ

07/04/02

wouldn't shed
this blood for another compromise

instead exchanged a uterus with mourning
a lining spilled
four days longer with defined moments

I later return to
a bicep before frail
now sculpture

a lack lustered smile

illuminating with a happiness

not for my arrival

clearly this new devotion
to depart soon
re-arranges me as forgotten and less known

the living demon mirror
smudged
with wax
he's broken that cycle those vows

and a rupture of blood
untamed and revived

makes him more a man than this space

I am the old dream