

Spring 2005



belladonna* books

458 Lincoln Place, Suite 4B Brooklyn, NY 11238

www.belladonnaseries.blogspot.com

Heads Up Fever Pile

by
Karen Weiser

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



Thank you to the editors of the following print and online journals, in which some of these poems first appeared: *The Germ*, *Van Gogh's Ear*, and *Jacket*.

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belladonna* production and design, Bill Mazza.

It is set in Geneva, ITC Calson Medium and Bold, and ITC Officina 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 Horrors* 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 Saidenberg, *Dusky*
24. Gail Scott, *Bottoms Up* OOP
25. Carla Harryman, *DIMBLUE* and *Why Yell*
26. Anne Waldman, *[THINGS] SEEN/UNSEEN*
27. kari edwards, *a diary of lies* OOP
28. Bhanu Kapil Rider, from *The Wolf Girls of Midnapure* OOP
29. Rosmarie Waldrop, *Trace Histories* OOP
30. Tina Darragh, from *rule of dumbs*
31. Chris Tysh, *Mother, I*
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. María 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, *THE REINVENTION OF TRUTH*
65. Renee Gladman, *Untitled, Woman on Ground*
66. Nicole Brossard, *Matter Harmonious Still Maneuvering*

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, *Commingle: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.*

2005

67. Eileen Tabios, *THE ESTRUS GAZE(S)*
68. Susan Howe, *118 Westerly Terrace*
69. Corina Copp, *Play Air*
70. Lyn Hejinian, *Lola*
71. Mercedes Roffé, *Theory of Colors*
72. hassen, *Salem*
73. Mónica De la Torre, *Doubles: An Excerpt*
74. Erin Moure, *Befallen I*
75. Lisa Robertson, *First Spontaneous Horizontal Restaurants*
76. Martine Bellen, *NYC Stories / Lessons of the Microscopist*
77. Karen Weiser, *Heads Up Fever Pile*

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

The Morgue Would Speak French

The hallway is a perspective trick
decomposing in color, banked formaldehyde stare:
Hospital plant. Turn right to enter honeycomb
space overlooking bridges lit with flickering
pin-up stars. Brooklyn expanse sees you looking—
building face—Navy Yard beauty at night.
The morgue would speak French but its accent is green
metallie first consciousness, artificial music.

Blocked by the Barge

a departing shape the year turns
counterpoint a name clock a narrative
the sea and my brain give up
an identifying mark every year
slipping into anonymity from forms
recognizable to the self misplaced
scale of person-slash-building-slash-ocean
pressing through the Miss Ellis Island
and the Coast Guard machine guns
navigate a rough slipped surface
drop a plumb line, see corresponding
gravities settle downward
blimp in the sky moves out of sight
juggled by a distant volume

Peony Monument

my eyes a store of violent resources
a film over vision
inside your dark vehicle

piled red mist
manifold surface meadows
in secret: little brisk
and tumbling
legs give way

between meals squeamish
bench-like seeing

my weight fall through
a perfectly natural defense
covered over with sky

3.14.04

four deaf women
 silently
 leak music

two weeks frame
 fake brick
 fumbling stutter

days
 inarticulate, autopsied
 no radio

read: empty
 label me
 uncontoured interior

photo flash
 lit shift
 again up close

or pulled back
 infinite
 aerially becoming

Most of All, the Roundness of Planetary Dimensions

Most of all, the roundness of planetary dimensions
under largesse duress
presence in the open causeway of sky

standing on the page on the mountain kitchen countertop
metal duct-way
heft
 in the thru-space—grass
 held up or under by fragile wires

red balloons mark
 decadence in purple
 fat loops suspend
 ghost skyline pathway

“Clack” the Summer Parallel’s

“clack” the summer parallel’s
fine layer of shag
 sticks,
breaks the eggshell
(speckled red containers,
head full of stars)
of merely
 circulating
 (citified yolk state)
schedule of buildings
sections condense, ease
 dimension at that
dusk, immaculate opening of corners

3.13.04

feathered shape
 egg cliché
 panopticon assembly

mist-ridden blue
 family compartment
 split the risk

where there are notes
 eye frame box
 cloudy edges lit

we the peeps
 legendary idleness
 instrument

2.13.04

Brooklyn-bound mouths
spill
pious eye glances

igloo-domed
dreams dwindle
colorfully thread

between the day's punchbox
meter. Spun round
a later spell

stuffed-over sweet
the couch tilts
intentions

sandwiching days between
corrupt un-placeable increments
clock with no arms

Heads Up Fever Pile

Afterimage horizon stretch
word yourself steps
heat up the windsock

flap and wax by the runway
vocabulary lapse
into button clutch

Prepared tree still
numbered in structured pauses
fallen mass
panic ticket

The Sad Small Beauty of an Aerial View

Street runs its lines
folds, unfolds in creases
lisp little scripts
permanently banner-like

float by as liquid
crumbling under touch
a motor-sore well of shadows
compressed and spent

O gunpowder-forming mass
hide your exhibition
hot sheets of wings
fall so accordion night

various water
soluble miracles
parade like fireflies
picture zipper-up

2.7.04

midnight is aquarium pretty
spared details asleep
propped-up city skin

moving skims wonder
oracular tinkering with space
walking bird

feverish body compromise
vener thin sideways
through shoulders

familiar turn on sidewalk
island image condenses
cold metal gate

2.5.04

common man

blue jays are starry
bullets of morning-glory
little weights keep pace

hunker down in vectors
blue forest room
latched brain-tree

hope of clear eyeballing
boundless country sprawl
heavy sky patchwork

look landmarks of misdirection!
look crowd of prophets
lighting the fence

Still Life with Typewriter and Speeded-Up Snow

Slow sex expose
the personal economy

balance on your hind legs
bubble terrain

to grasp the moneybag
dupe

calm closed and flat
gray heap of human levels

one light
its eye-duplicate

blurry with graspability
ashen round win

2.3.04

Opened by force

a small medical object
an ordinary body miracle
slow moving taxi

well rested among objects

like a sudden awareness of your face
I am not at home within
the fog of waiting

5th Avenue houses

a sleep with string
interior sounds casual

on another planet's

fine serialized sand
the elevators move

a city-wide parallel conspiracy

aligned and abundant, wordless
stents for city-flux
rocket science as we hold the door

2.4.04

A stutter fades

shelved note
light tipped in my pocket

tunneling to Virginia

secret terminal recipe
all parts waiting

a metaphor for soup

who is there
making it make itself

into tradition a song

hanging from above
printed like money