

## **OBJECT RELATIVE**

This object is my relative  
I treat it with a sedative

When it keeps me up for fights.  
Object, you are an actor corpsing on footlights

You impale yourself on.  
Sharp lenses! cut through the skin of my inner alien

In my nightstand. My legs, table legs—what's the difference?  
This egg before me is exactly what I feel inside.

## THE AMENITIES

*"The reek of human blood, it's laughter to my heart."  
—EURIPIDES, THE EUMENIDES (trans. Robert Fagles)*

You killed your mother  
in revenge for her killing your father  
and we hunt you  
you will pay for your mother's death  
with bangs ripped from your bedhead.

O.RESTES

A.H!

ballyrag cozen foofaraw

on the run again, eh, Orestes? running through  
a cracked red street and finding at the end a feline smile  
on the streetlamp Nerval hung himself from.

Orestes, despite your charms you will be taken away to  
the soundcheck swoonstage.

"Going to learn three chords then  
change very slowly," replies Orestes, applying hotel amenities cream to his  
face to scare off The Furies with his great complexion. It works, guess  
HOT it works. But not long. The Amenities burn in his face and begin

speaking to him the fix he's bent to hear they are KINDLY ONES  
little chips of hotel soap  
who can compete with the discretion of hotel soap pellets  
shot from bathroom mirror and waking in 2AM pornolight hearing  
"Telamon Telamon" the name of the father  
of Aias, or Ajax as we call him where—and then in a couple seconds  
looking at the mirror ALL CLEAR and back to bed

EARTHQUAKE

"Is Athens falling

all around me on the 16th floor? 'No no—all Athens will fall down  
but this hotel will stay up,' assures me one of the nightguys  
at Reception. The elevator down—will we ever get there—  
I and Telamon the father of Ajax who warned me of the earthquak-

E but for what reason. Did the earthquake come because I did not eat the  
Seasonal Melon"—No the earthquake did not come because of anything you  
did Orestes

"Did the earthquake come because I—"

No Orestes you are innocent and we will kill you anyway we the Amen-  
ities will kill you dear Orestes. Orestes PAUSE and think  
with your inky candelabra ribcage cooling by bedlamp.

**THE LOVERS THE EYE THE WEB**

*for Alice Notley*

Sitting on a red standpipe siamese  
a perfect place to eavesdrop  
to give the gift of eavesdropping  
but you're hunched over—  
you know how everything you've done  
it doesn't work because  
you're conscious of it—

And Spanish I can't understand  
let alone transcribe—Why?  
Get yourself to language class

Lazyass

A BODY FALLING OUT OF A CEILING  
SCREAMING

"THAT'S GOD—  
A GUY!"

That's true—hot no-potatos!  
What've I been doing  
with all of these people in harmony with me—  
Sitting on a red standpipe siamese—

The Christmas tree where it was that year  
Where it was to be relaxed—

The Eye sees what The Eye gives  
and "We are led to Believe a Lie  
When we see not Thro the Eye"  
William Blake stars  
as Desire The Querent  
asking questions of signs shuffled blue  
on the long desk  
12 poets sit around  
diagnosing civilization  
The already gone ghost membrane pajama  
sleepwaking in it do you curl up  
your sleeves and get to jerking the pen off  
as the tour operator does atop the blue doubledecker with his microphone  
telling the Guests about SOHO  
short for SO LONG HOUSING

\* \* \*

New York Real Estate Meat Eaters' Conference  
We got some food at THRIFTING STOP  
I think I owe you  
TAR spots on the street  
you wouldn't necessarily be putting your

lipwear on your shoes

Houston and Broadway  
SHOWER PUPPETS two dollars each  
sketching in the mid afternoon grey  
slate of sky Daniel Thank you—

off the standpipe finally and waiting for the spider to bite me  
Do you want a finger puppet

Mine are all thinner  
The Lovers eye The Web  
BANK OF AMERICA spread

What the function of this luncheon  
a bad joke eyed from long ago  
when I was taking Koch  
and he drew a rabbit on the board  
said Go see Cy Twombly—

Jail Puppets—  
taking it—  
Hell's frame—

We don't have enough rich words  
no soil but  
a concrete square  
with tar spit circles  
on it—

Hey Train translate that  
shower we ran  
We rented out a couple  
I've been German for six  
months already warm out  
and now Napalm  
That's why I always buy SHOE SIZE  
MOVE DICE CUE EYES

U.S. Smoothie King  
do you want this guy over here  
my butt is cold from sitting on  
red standpipe siamese—  
in case there was a fire  
I would've been the water gladly  
since I'm tired of playing Chutes  
and Ladders—

I can put out the flame  
glove fitting  
itself over  
fire escape fist

pulsing—

Sepulchre Mice eye The Web Lovers  
bringing pizza home  
for monochrome  
rest junket  
REST AND LEASE  
but if you buy  
DIE! stay there forever in  
a New York apartment channelling Real Estate Death Muse  
while the real interrupts you with  
coughing a little bit more  
artistic  
finger puppets

Without interruption  
is no thinking  
so I cough  
through your aria

The cellphone dead  
in—like—a basket hat  
Telepathy relevant again  
though weakened by constant radiation  
to the head and digits weak from punching  
and Presto Digitalis where is the  
motherboard

The Eyeball  
caught

in The Web  
looks  
at  
The Lovers  
in the  
treehouse  
I'M GONNA  
TAKE  
A  
SHOWER  
WITH  
YOUR  
NERVES  
I'M GOING  
TO GET  
LOST IN  
THE HOUSE  
ALRIGHT GOOD  
LUCK  
I STILL HAVE YOUR SHOES  
IN THERE

YOU STOLE MY ERRAND  
YOU CROWDIAND  
ROWDY WITH CONVERSATION  
BUT I WAS HAPPY TO BE FREE OF IT—

Where is the motherboard  
Greg said I need to buy—  
my motherboard is broken—  
What does it taste like? Everyone  
and I can buy a new motherboard,  
stories in the air, and music that finds you—  
Are we stopping you—

I was just thinking Share your  
local spray

MINT  
SCRAPED  
OFF A MOVIE SCREEN  
TESTED FOR PIT FLAVORS  
MEADOW LUCK  
CHIMNEY A NO-NO

I can see you get the  
newspaper  
through a glass newspaper  
in my eye

The Web is catching up  
as it walks  
behind The Lovers racing  
away from  
The Flood Card  
as it gives a long  
paper cut  
down the eye  
of the prophet  
in the treehouse

I met five magazines  
on Spring and Prince

baking soda snorter  
short on calming substances  
to be shared  
not controlled  
ah substances

To pick tar spots off the street and smoke them thereby  
affirming intimacy with the sidewalk still here

Since SoHo became LOFT CITY DREAM REAPER

Buffalo in eight great cities found us mellow—

I just found her hosting her  
bits of string  
the marionettes cut loose  
from the phone booth—

"unreal city" fondue mellow  
dip your pen in it and  
write the recipe in time  
for the cook to die—  
The cook is you—  
And all of this is foretelling what?

You're just a meteorologist  
perusing bra-straps  
at Victoria Secret  
looking for a sign in the ink  
or a pinafore  
or a pianoforte to score with—  
sex with an objective correlative!  
finally I find the Hanged Man and  
can't recognize him and then they kicked  
all people out of housing—

The Lovers find The Eyeball  
on The Spiderweb  
enticing  
for The Web was sewn  
in the slain toro's wound  
in the middle of the arena  
to mark the place where the  
toreador cut its balls off  
to give to the princess—  
Next time is goring time and  
comas and death and a  
game of cards played by nurses  
in the waiting room interrupted by a  
crack in the floor—The glacier the  
hospital was built on opening up to say HELLO

WHAT TIME ARE YOU GOING HOME?

## **SELF-PORTRAIT AT STORM KING ARTS CENTER**

This map

makes an ineffective

and

fabulously flapping

sun-hat.

## WHEN

when now when with a pen when Zazen  
when Kinhin when Dudeman when kin  
come to live in an apartment belonging to you  
what do you do do you show them in

when when I'm in my bin with tea box  
Genine said Chamomille doesn't come  
in a box only it's on the lawn

when I strip and shower  
when I say the washing gatha  
quietly so nobody can hear my  
so embarrassing

when when one syllable  
when when is No Mind  
when when is not separate from mind

when when is come in when when seed  
in GIN the juniper berry  
I better not drink it even tho  
I haven't vowed the precepts  
I want to I want to drink GIN  
when Now when Now  
    when when Now  
    Not in Kinhin but now  
Give me the Jupiter berry  
    I fly to Pluto  
    in my Juniper Shuttle  
    The atmosphere tastes hot on my lense  
    Am I a telescope No No I'm  
obnoxious jikido mimicking liturgy  
when when That's not me when it's me  
when can I stay an extra week  
when I find a tent when I find  
a tent for Sesshin will I find  
a tent for Sesshin that is future  
not this moment moment has  
Mom in it that's not when  
    that's JUDGEMENT

when when will I find out  
if I'm really a cosmonaut boyscout  
when I skateboard the craters of Jupiter  
does Jupiter have craters  
    That's the moon  
Cute Cute Cute cut it cut it when  
Now don't wait for Zazen come in Uji

Uji The Time Being come in  
where are you Rodney your buzzcut  
I can still see you're gone you left  
in a car you were a good Roomy  
Left the light on for me when I was  
Late for bed lights out when lights out  
Lights going down now  
    Thunder and Lightning  
    last night  
    didn't obey community silence  
    or lights out  
    That's not now that's  
    when when when I was this  
I was then  
Now I'm when when when when when  
    whenny when winter when  
    summer when  
    spring when

peripheral vision deer  
peripheral deer vision  
red flakes in spinal August

That was when that was hot when  
Kihin solar plexus where's that  
are my thumbs in Chiashu  
    when the solar plexus when the sun  
    when the juniper berry orbits  
    my gin glass too fast O just  
fast enough

when when one goes  
    to Jupiter  
    in Juniper Berry  
    Shuttle  
wave to me when when when  
window when window when  
window pane when

## **HOMAGE TO ISSA**

writing shit about language  
for upper middle classes  
is not art