

Chris Dewdney/THREE PROSE PIECES

THE SECULAR GRAIL

The secular grail is a *property* wherein the whole is not only the sum of its parts but the parts are structurally identical to the whole. An object demonstrating this property will generate smaller versions of itself as a consequence of either its intrinsic structure or its mode of action. In certain species of fern the leaflets will exhibit the same ratio relative to the leaves as the leaves exhibit to the whole plant. As if the fern represented the visible portion of an endlessly recursive graph.

A tornado forms tiny tornadoes at its tip.

UNTITLED

D.N.A. is the selective mutational interface between cosmic noise and survival. Man is the product of a phylogenic memory locked in one direction by D.N.A.

Now it is night and the clay bluffs are alive with thousands of tiny wriggling white mares. The sky is entirely composed of what appears to be a billion prismatic reflections, spectral smears. Each one the same device, a grinning monkey set guardant on a jack-hammer. Its face a blur of verticality.

TIME TRAVEL II

To disperse the entrenched sub-conscious illusion of auto-phenomenality, or exonomy, this simple exercise should suffice. One must realize the effects of the 'passage' of time on objects during an interval of absence from a familiar setting. You leave your house for a few hours leaving an apple core and some orange peels on the kitchen table. When you return the core and peels will serve as a grey-scale irritating the comfortable inertia of exonomy.

Upon return everything will have changed. The light will still be on, the chairs, table, pots and utensils will be exactly where you left them but the apple core has turned brown, the orange peels are drying out. As if in your absence some force had been in your house, subtly changing everything before your return.

The point of the exercise is to separate the implacable force of change from one's illusory and unconscious belief that somehow one is responsible for all change, which itself is reinforced by the seduction of motion.

The illusion of voluntary motion from one point to another, which reinforces the habituated ego's position as originator of change and the equally strong illusion of environmental manipulation are the two greatest barriers to the time-traveller's realization of time and space.