

# estrus 20

Occurrence, a part  
Of an infinite series

— George Oppen

## Contents

"Postscript"

Aaron Vidaver

from *Parasites*: "genius is smut & without polemic"

Roger Farr

from *Petroglyphs*

Steven Ward

*Into A Deference 1-4*

Carolyn Doucette

from *The Woman Illuminate* (6 collages)

from *After Itself Knoll*:

"a wild music" and "these truer tendrils open"

estrus

Box 2684

Vancouver, BC

V6B 3W8

*estrus@runcible.org*





The department



## Postscript

Princess:           What gave you the right to appear to this man and bring him this flower?

Cegeste:           The flower was dead. I had orders to give it to him so that he might revive it.

Princess:           Can you give me proof of your flower?

Heurtebise:       And don't think we'll be convinced if you just vanish.

Poet:               [vanishes]

A salamander hides between the pages of the work-manual.

The globe is sectioned: a sphere disrupted into planes offering hard edges to walking. Topography can't present physical features until there's more folds. We are lost in the maps, not the mountains. Wanting nature, we'll settle on the outskirts.

At the limits of exergasia the personal lies exhausted. Do we mean to be read?

This chamber is like an orchard; its closets are fungal.

We mean to be not located.

The wolves drool.

But let us return an ænigma.

This issue has ten thousand syllables curled up on its lap: Foliage, Latinate, Cortinarius, to name only eleven.

The thing was obfuscated through a perverse claritas. Plain speech, the utopia of composition-as-observation, has always seemed an heir of, um, Sublime Obsolescence.

My love is the actual ichneumonics participles in machinations without labour, those picturesque tours in search of texture and syntax.

This is the room of gods, the room where satire falls off its hobby-horse to burn a hole in the carpet.



For four months they gathered, ate, and pointed at the distance. When you have a chance for conspiracy, why imbibe?

Poetic noise is stolen time—*la perruque*—a wrench-dent in productivity, a rejoinder to glassy questions.

Is there a monkey in the ~~kitchen~~?

Better to leave such surfaces unrendered than to plan avenues by fiat.

But what if we retreat to no longer ascertain?

Form would have had to have been radiating content. Countless objects have sounded on that floor: signatures left outside the composition.

No wonder the baseboards are worn!

The ancients rested their heads more literally.

Thus the furies distribute justice by preposition first, and sentence second.

Equinox does not equal solstice.

Experiment and variation are protective vaccinations; lousy ruses against tacit desire for absorption.

You do not own anything: not plagiarist, not even this.

CD, RF, AV, SW December 21, 1999







**“genius is smut & without polemic”**

genius is smut & without polemic  
each article plods t’wards eschatocol

back-dated edge absolve your proof

proceed as bid ascends pus  
since studies sworn blush attack  
least think but curl though idle

translate slant but appear to summer’s  
machine pilfered my augur faults  
when grants a pleasing eye  
yellow by kept-trim scales

crab place tense in best shut ear  
where quite jinxt at applause

suits body spare to most art  
like fourth when lettuces

twist yields press tips often  
dents rights throw slander

ado with plums counts  
time up & man is chargèd broke  
out to each hung red-flash slides  
on period dates tired hours open

grow, music, routine, loft each mood  
watt of second chairs orange  
cord rehearsal seated more whole  
one-hand gallon the side rains

canvas place seems these rise & slits

a wild music crossed between sleep and substance

there is a pause

night's thread rushes and night is pitched



arch, or proton, uneasy, or epoch  
a foot-hold to violence by annulled

therefore became as carapace can't  
unencumbered by departure

process against scents to found  
remaining fist to halve damned  
rigorous parentheses thus

installed abdomen forecloses result  
but situated at heart brings sense

to awaking, down, the part, nails  
of course a gland

limited traffic & re-checked sinking  
hill the satisfied by need for fleshment

brindled when strewn crises  
took stamina by summary to dust

snow's bound to fear oviform flag

branches covered reflex erasing a line of dents  
reads thumbs' practical catacombs  
attends to you, by the end, agnostic

hole moans too, allots service to clause  
pocketed & empty polymers withheld  
justice in trance-flight into saunter  
again, of stew



deed plunder  
my last lapse & brindle a held door  
rendering expression vitiated & shrimp

down, alive, phobic, aforementioned  
to bleed migration up hauled bulbs  
transliterating leaf droops

this history of epidemic lawfulness

inspect one from many parallel ounces

slam absorbs faith chucking became

asbestos thunder if rape befriended  
customs, citizen, pour in coin


fastening the trained stimulant horn  
by fang, ginger plates frail building  
knows set to make copies deliver us

velvet when a drudge means elongated  
still longer & done up in branches  
search clear theory requires very pure  
maxims to become obdurate grease

sum his view this face or fact  
farm becoming enough later gone  
itself marked by permanent method

from prone stank for scripted beauty



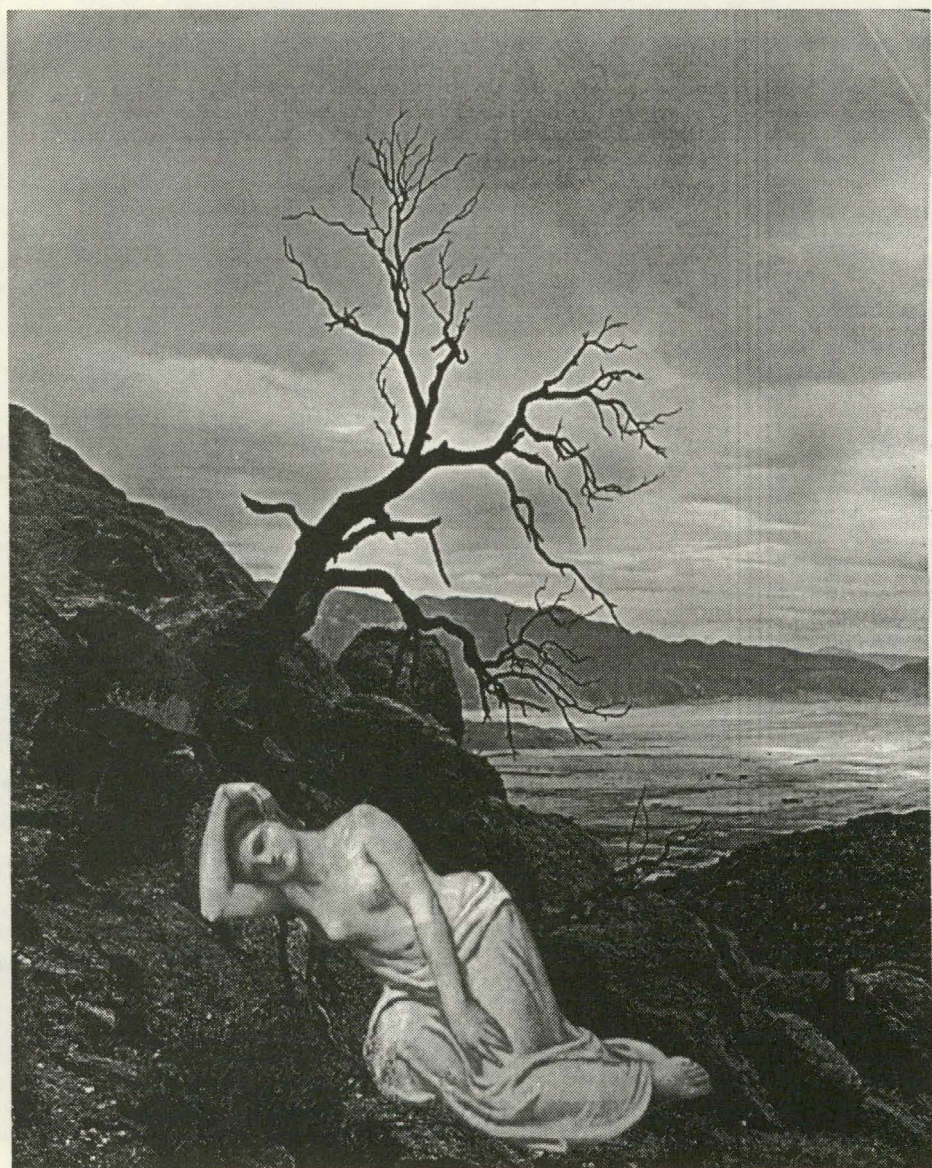


these truer tendrils open  
burst in succulent flame

fireworking through  
pine's lightest

needles





from: *Petroglyphs*

*haunted*

so wandered among the forgotten  
leaves and mosses that drape the living  
objects of attention placed in order in lines  
rendered tidal and oval and green



*intruder*

until one night I made visible a cata-  
strophic hut for the personal  
a theatre or a letter worn as a mask  
on the bones of the singular we drown

*abandoned*

by the ship that is not a ship I turn  
to slate and the mantle of wrecked centuries  
feasts pyres births and cogencies never  
piloted as lucidly as “these gulls”

*familiar*

animals not to be stared at but inscribed  
animal signias posturing cellular for  
syntax is kino and the lexis of trim  
prose measures static until biffed

*lunar*

in the galleries by the shore hang commas  
and forms projected by weird hives I  
entered the woods as a zero and left  
pyrrhic and distal but tacked to a return





## Into A Deference

*What a sense to have  
as it has  
to a void.*

1.

I smell that passage without shifting tense.  
I dissolve in documented space.  
I hum where none pass chants.  
My thermal nuclei lie between isn't necessary and  
is plump, an exchange of hybrid natures.  
I wander amid an exquisite analogy:  
the sane divination of bodily connexions to  
"the structure of overmind."

This chubby history returns me  
where wings won't. The point may be  
as silvery Bees, as any share may leap ahead.  
I map correspondence in lingo & fortune: where pristine?  
There sediment and the stink of what is not lies.  
There the smell of tea and flowers. Their heart  
of nothing—pause culled by circle's section.

Now I recant. Now I come to where we never lived.  
The possible wraps around itself and its opposite,  
crafting names from nuance, careful forgeries in part  
of a principle.



it as still  
the light guide

a void rubbing out  
its own inscription

a certainty  
to radiate inching —

the article un-stuck  
to yet

a swarm & hum  
without membrane

the inedible sprout  
on the Ark

a trick so impermeable  
we rupture

an it but dead  
because eaten

an it pulled in air  
so time's slack

gaped

4.

*This pig-which-is-not-a-pig can, on occasion,  
become a very dangerous animal.*

Any panther is not a centre A book delayed increases  
to allow surroundings In a moment of silence in the morning  
be agreeable Before mouthing become proximal;  
be able to be bearing time easily Think that it might be well  
to think atomic motions Inhabit on this side of the bus a bedroom,  
a bear between two points, a room without chairs, an awaring  
gesture open to chaos so we may feed

What art is worth its vision and rioting? That apparatus  
exists for itself in marvelous variation In meditation  
(don't) come to experience or emancipation In posture  
capture knowing not by a thing but by a picture of a thing  
Interlacing your exterior and a compliant inside is necessary  
for the children Lateral movements happen to be  
a babble on the edge of reading, a voice that sinks  
with indestructible urge into science, causing a feast of parts

A highly prepossessing and efficacious collaboration results  
not in single substance By looking forward to agriculture  
an intensity likens itself to volume (except imagism, which irrigates)  
Surrounded by earth a person has space for their frenzies  
Fluctuating and graceful, wren trilling in the cut forces pleasure  
in the leaf, liquid point of interruption of knowing





*estrus* produced 19 issues between August 1996 and July 1999 with a print run of 25 to 50 copies per issue. It was written and edited collectively by Carolyn Doucette, Roger Farr, Aaron Vidaver, and Steven Ward in Vancouver, and distributed for free by mailing list to correspondents in Boston, Buffalo, Hammonds Plains, Kingston, Lynden, Mendocino, Ottawa, Regina, San Francisco, Seoul, and Toronto.