Caroline Bergvall / 16 FLOWERS

The occasion was an invitation from poet John Cayley to collaborate on his permutational text *Nothr's* for a CD-Rom by the journal *Performance Research* (Summer 1999). Text sections referring to flower motifs in Marcel Proust and Jean Genet's works were excerpted to form the basis of his "transliteral morphs" between the French quotes and their English translations. As a contrast to the additive and randomly changing structure of John's chosen weave of quotes, a white text on black background, I suggested that I would develop a series of 16 one-liners. Each line would be programmed to appear once only (or less) per reading session. One at a time, a black text on white background, they would interrupt for a few seconds the seamless flow of the structure.

The 16 lines were linked to the piece's quotes and translations through the italicised nodal word at the core of the chosen quote. They were connected to one another through a logic of agglutination, of concatenation. "Heart us invisibly thyme time" (*80 Flowers*). Five words a line. A doubling of eight, amorosa entwines dolorosa, lines of words worn like crowns of flesh, vulnerability redemptive, the surprise of love is its most rigorous demand. "Certain acts dazzle us and light up blurred surfaces as if our eyes are keen enough to see them in a flash, for the beauty of a living thing can be grasped only fleetingly" (*The Miracle of the Rose*).

1.   vagrant rOse *paths* compressed Come–on

2.   hover matin l'aRose in– *Mers*

3.   a–*glimp* th ornful umineuse darKorolla

4.   faint Fur st *special irrésistible*

5.   Lansoft –goRous elovelash *petals* absorbed

6.   small*red* Vibrant lovegash pétales embedded

7.   *White* throated flatfanned dressLash lovétale

8.   *PINk*draw –inGirls lovcrest pétalent Bedded

9.   looseHung metal Folds *Heat*–be ds

10.   heave–heavends Glissening *Hearts* be attitudes

11.   soar Coeurs formidable *foam* liS–p

12.   Offer inCuts alArm to her–*Throbbing*

13.   Offer bloodFalls hearthRobed inner *tHighs*

14.   OffHer *dazzle* bloodgush enrobe lovMeta

15.   lovblong *faceg*Ush –er mettle ways

16.   un*Crowne*D–ashes dazed–in tHer PInCK