

LARISSA LAI & RITA WONG / from **Sybil Unrest**

part three

is manic to mantic  
the leap from opium to snow?  
read the flakes, crystals  
take dirt, imperfections, to form  
face precarious balaclavas  
against weather &  
the heart's flaws  
futile or fugitive, might melt  
with one strong beam

from miniscule origins  
to mysterious ends  
condensation nuclei  
defy the odds  
& even the temper's blows

tempest in a tea party  
hatters rave ecstatic  
mercury tips mescaline along weft of  
soul's fabric, absorbs chemical effect  
moral fibre seeks weave  
and bob

a martial stance sublimated  
to grace in motion  
coup de coeur  
or state of the union  
not for the taint of heart

let others tell.  
i am told. out

s/he shot my perfect apple out  
asundered me  
my mouthy core  
melts sound  
down to the why, or tries  
to make a chinese apple  
into infinite pi

*and you want to travel with heir  
and you want to travel blind*

decimal points in several directions  
reason's cul de sac  
the address of champions  
we make our home in the air  
pie in the sky  
captain of my stark  
raven my naked nest  
snowing black feathers  
the over of others  
eggs me on

face it.  
ain't over till

the embryo shows

*the fetus sings*

destiny prompts selenology:  
chang o moans vows  
as the eggs'

monthly release  
reminds aerial letters'



louis westernizes la revolucion  
materializes conditions  
for breakfast club  
soft poached or over easy  
prepositions deposit  
movement silted in short vowels  
readers digest instant message  
smiley's icons plant worms  
symbiotic systems feedback  
labels loophole  
"this way out"  
the garden isn't gone  
it was never there  
utopia's ipod serenades regardless  
want stands in for want  
to whom it may concern

back in lack  
tilt the glass so that  
it's half full &  
hail the composting hero  
determined to cultivate her garden  
have hens lay gorgon eggs  
modus operandi:  
infiltrate as cells  
as model citizens  
row house by row house  
median by median  
traffic in lavender,  
sage, edible weeds retake  
the city in which i lull you  
out of consumerism  
into loving the alien labour

o chicky  
     dance if you want to  
                     leave your friends' hatchings  
                                 grasshopper's aunt's all relative  
             unzoned night hills throb insect talk  
 mirror's defect plagues infection  
             swarm from dull reverse  
                     liminal or vegetable?

collective forms sentient incident  
             to sing is no trouble  
                     scrape leftovers to pattern  
                                 maze of fresh detritus

the jobbly gene giant stomps out  
     the maize  
             thunders over gaia's song

but tantrum all he wants  
     she's still larger than his life  
     a scale of metonymy substitutes mineral for carnivore  
 babies' chickpea stomachs grow to walnuts then oranges  
                     sunkist & sunkicked  
                     from the cooperative's orchards  
                     into the farmers' markets

grain elevates pooling peeps  
 collective hunger stills nomadic urge  
     monsanto clause  
     ruptured cell cooperates  
         temp rising to new balance  
         runner's stretch warrior one  
             give lip or      slip      flip  
             dirty bird on colonel's modified wing  
             middle digitizes rhetoric's mediatized message  
                     mutter ship

calling for alien avian  
to pidgin home

dirges burn on kernel's mogrified whim  
muddle diligent returns, material missives  
mauling crypts  
crawling for agrarian liens  
to piscines clone  
ostrich preen or congee's sheen  
cells die for the greater ghoul –  
it's antibio's trick  
to treat us all, the shame

sham's enhancement entrances  
real thing      coaxing the coats off our hacks  
naked chefs saucing  
modification to favour multiple unpredictable enchantments  
apprentice's hubris floods mickey's drunken floor  
dizzy master dons emperor's clothes  
chance winces  
accepts roll of die  
verses' loss scripts wisdom of habitat  
weather's thermometer swells meltwater      our floes current ice  
gulfs wages ages      nurture forces froth  
to tip the shale

a vowel disappears or disappoints, veers & bobs up & down: i i i i i i  
balls get jiggled & juggled, fish off or flush luck  
prongs, sproings, sprints towards the finish line: multiple i's & multiple o's  
from classic to zero, dirty calories preserve the family joules  
more polar bears drown as glaciers disappear, repeats back to u, hand job or heart throb:  
we're all blowing in the wind, fissile missives hit home: even loughheed calls a

moratorium for what it is, nude bitumen to lewd crude will be the last big gasp unless we  
learn to sage know

ego waffles    each indent engulfs its jam  
                howl of the ow before o  
ugh of the spew before u                  a slick solution  
                to dregs instead  
personal is maniacal    wants breakfast at the pump  
                lump sum consumption limited by seven sisters  
avoiding flood of excess crude                  accusing terror as tactic  
to limit traffic on pipe lining silk road  
                persia to china                  the love that dare not speak its gain  
every environ atoms its national interest gush to push fast on fascism  
                while fumbling for a joy that sticks

it to the man: give eye teeth  
or canine howl  
for house of pomegranates  
art in its own right & left, drapes a  
long now  
unfurls from seeds in the jelly  
raspberry to rasputin  
invoke a jammy whammy special  
take a commodity vacation  
as shares rise with desperate bids  
gambling queens, dancing fiends  
spin the mad machine  
folie a deux, trois, quatre...  
algorithm of the agon prism whirs

infinity ships fools  
transit's madness trumps logic of cards  
poker face slots cherry's choice  
taxonomy redefines pluto's planetary status  
if you don't play  
you're still playing  
king spades souls guarded by detention's club  
or clover  
crimson lie bathes  
operatives' bloodlust  
and diamonds dog child soldiers  
hearts broken before they're grown  
equation calculates even compassion  
the rule of live and let cry

shuffle the tech  
joker hoaxter pushes  
rude buddhas & middle class barbarians  
into the same soul train  
sweatin' with the masses  
on the metro race and gender clashes  
ideals against crude awakenings  
get off at the next stop  
or keep riding in the hopes  
of solar, wind, renewable courses  
infinite transport & honest centres call  
odds without ends

lama spams compassion  
stance rations resist to go with the flow  
is a slow slog moxie boxed  
about the ears there's always a ringing  
church bells ignite low swells of sad and had



sand and hand slipped a shucking knife  
before oyster can muster  
moon solidarity        here comes the tide  
                         too late to save slit muscle  
grit and gristle adorning flayed flesh

   thrash and pray? strapped and frayed  
   patients wait so disinfectant and needles do their work  
   hope for moxibustion herbs & smart deductions but spit & spite prevail  
   upon the cloister as groundwater dries up & red tide creeps, drops  
   the water table below space age couple's maverick muscles  
   what song could dispel fire and strafe, unholy waste?  
   plant your feet on this earth and flex your sandy toes to the sky  
   stay alert to remain handy  
   night trippy & day tricky

   palmers cruise mother-of-pearl  
long conquest precedes travel package's all-inclusive jamaica and roma  
my pall to your mall        your john to my con        no one escapes air  
   nikes and psyches busted by the charm of karma  
   one-way ticket's vocation  
   homeless returns  
   prison house of language materializes  
for non-speakers        awake in the iron box  
subaltern yowls against cat callers  
   construction sites viral replication of creeks and counties  
   enjoy the falsies  
   when the truth is too holey  
   for confidence men  
   hens lay eggs in the fox's den

dub elbows you, the world, into film reversions  
throwback to blowback  
head & breath through the heart  
rejuice & reverberate  
as you wait for kuwait  
stay awake for the stakes  
no monopoly & properly kissed  
make it purr make it mew  
make the bridge as you walk  
back & forth, scratch & score  
the page for more  
murrelets, mycorrhizal mats  
hail all blue wails  
to walk strangers home

tree catches windfall  
anxious spin wins unexpected gift  
head bonked by the wonk of subterranean support  
hat turns community chest  
slopes hope through avenues mediterranean, baltic, oriental  
incidental thimble dogs chance for tax rebate on hotel construction  
past go  
every waterfront's memory of contact  
hailed by jail  
just visiting bereft  
in the weft while warp goes on  
stating ownership of web's reading railway  
late of exception martyred & bartered  
on security's earthly plane

red  
suits  
clowns and  
criminals who aren't  
papered in money's authority  
venture capitalists park free forget  
to thank fungal earth regenerating beneath asphalt  
china creek disturbs the streets summons ancestral tunnels  
immigration holds angel islands, handcuffs & bibles abound & go round  
might missionaries harbour unexpected returns? some poisoned presents  
can't be refused, just reused, exorcised, retooled for new  
generations to instant message the future cell by cell  
microbe by mycelia, vertebra by xylem  
zygote by eukaryote, carapace  
by axial stalk  
critical mass  
amends

pharmakon's carry-on contains accidental gel      trips reassuring ritual  
clients' false comfort after uniform forces dumping of toothpaste and hand cream  
under the radar and  
over the rainbow  
coalition floats  
nut too good to be true  
karyotic mobility propelled  
by cytoplasmic projections  
all protections rejected by the animal within the animal  
the mushroom in the restroom  
spores mycorrhizal love across international airspace

a mammal kisses enamel  
get down on your knees and spray  
lotion in motion  
enamoured of stranger and strangers  
time-space travel from urinals to Utah  
ejaculates across the jetty  
fill your empty thermos with seeds for tomorrow  
spiral dance or viral pranks  
who can spill the difference?

hamburger today supersizes arable waste  
harbours staphylococcus, salmonella, e. coli and friends  
antibody becomes antigen  
immunoglobulin's internal rehearsal mirrors  
external encounter  
déjà-vu                      au-delà  
in democracy-to-come  
difference tests muddy water of same  
seeks ion out of place  
on the lightning field      metal rods tender quiver  
testing electrical air for second strike

an unlucky strike might lunge  
into open pit mines, arsenic & cyanide tailings  
dry fingers tap tap on keys that flushed nitrates into rivers  
wet fingers pat raw meat into place, grilled & served with pickles  
this little piggie in the mirror stages butchered ritual  
mistakes the part for the hole in the earth  
discarded computers get on a slow boat to china where  
disemboweled circuit boards pile up, give gold bits & cancer to the villagers  
can't drink the acid flowing along the shores?  
unpack cartons, suck poison from the sky  
nicotine fits the addiction to devour  
what's missing from this picture

the girl in the picture

not

missing exactly

not there

napalm naked

the one who speaks is not the girl in the picture she is every fish  
the acid river coughs up every eater of fish every arsenic atom pulsing or poisoning every  
breath you take every piggy every burger hamming for the man every mushroom every  
murrelet every mycorrhizal mat every lightning strike

in the cameras of the world

every every

and nothing but the lens's envy handing us our own hearts

battered on platters

shattered in stairwells

the girls know

they add what they know to what

they don't know what they feel

to what they don't feel

what they have to what

they don't have what they are

to what they are not

village in black smoke

motherfather terror

running

not the picture

the thing

not the thing

the moment

not the moment past

the moment present

not the moment present

not not

not

never

that

mercury & memory circulate faster as global tempo rises:

that

dow sold napalm

bought union carbide

that dow

belongs to these icons:

bhopal baby girl face unburied

naked vietnamese girl

running

bring that dow to market

to court

before thousands of unseen bodies who lived in the earth

cu chi tunnels outran the invaders

cavernous kitchens, dormitories, underground theatres

rice paddies & rubber trees grow back after the american war

kiosks sprout

t-shirts and silent hurts

what remains to be seen: redress

red dress swans brilliant feathers

victor charlie

warps mutation to meet woof of return

confiscation refusal detainment

slides democratic protest shakes author's corpse to life

from dust to delight

wiggles truth's gleaming tooth

kernal precedes kinetic modification

embedded love goddesses

miracle sapodilla, durian, lotus leaf, rambutan, eggfruit, custard apple

swell from earth

rim before roll aches future content

enters breath

floods atmosphere

buoys air

silk unravels

red redresses duress

undresses

recovers

cell culture's defiant drag

modifies mitochondria

joy ride to synthetic natural

parachute catches air to hold human aloft