

DAPHNE MARLATT / Five Poems

a lapsed

taste for art deco geese wing geometric read-only memory
on-line horizontal sunbeams (set settled) heyday that was Marine's
elevated crabs consort with streamline moderne a pattern imperial pits
and lands we read Hobb's ambition by

touched

with gold in morning-after fog and traffic (king i thought) he-breeze
through burnish doors and doors sequester office feet in oxford brogue
tobacco pocket clang of elevator doors that daily matinal tide on battle-
ship lino later replaced by (bye)

binary data residual
tint *sea-green* slants northeast-southwest in sunny Burrard's angular
shadow labour losses hand-eye skill coordinate quick a quickening
touch by definition ice-cream melt

tops it, toppest (til '39) proximal
harbour beckoning world waters rising melt smelts' silver reflex glory
warped in visual stacks washed by noon anthem yaw its quick-pitch
noontide rush pedinal, pedestrian you

correct for agreement , your silver dollar shine
my dry money plant

comes walking

up through horror in the way of
vision, salt

sh'te she'd come through walking
wood block paving cedar cracked dark wit she'll come
heron eye and quick

kelp feather hair her stilted walk

come squawking grief transformed

through storm drain city outfall metaphor she wades
through rain's choleric traffic thrum he slows

:that bristle shudder hers (feathers long
along her neck) and peering back intuit, disregards . . .

is gone

twice shafted ("slime fisher") diacetyl bitter bittern

body as gift spurned, grawk

animal sheen

on skin's oil spotlights raise the old
Alcazar tap of heels' hurried exit then the Little boards
its must of makeup floats the York's art deco entrance
lights Theatre velvet drawn live over gesture body thump
a shriek or flounce blue gel dims the thrill it's curtains
for new wave

or New York boom (grunge Nirvana even)
alternately live and celluloid (see Palace cum Raja beauties
close up) from 1913 on (stage presence gone) til demolition
time and Tom inter-
venes

echoic applause
surf traffic braking and start ups glassy

towers loom pitfalls in memory netted as once who or
what was gutted contrail dust in collective amnesiac
flaneuring poses open stairwells

she was walking
her self her twenty something of questionable whats
through shared streets thick with passing

its fly-tower and proscenium stage inchoate dark on the
blank side of the news is crow murder an act in disappearing
communitas coyote paws this permeable

spasm in . . . continuity. . .

whose?

raining buckets

or backwards the windslant street slick
neon used to shimmer Hastings awning shelter from drip
arrays rain city housing beyond the doorway solution for
every civic fabric tearing open under (low) pressure
mouth

making a mouth (without hands)

rain-catcher

frayed collar open neck not back wet hand out

hovers hot-footing it to the curb where rain city properties
hike or dogs or tattoo (war parlour) strategies call never the
less under nimbostratus deck wind turbines turning the up
wardly (mobile) ramp to circle connective

moué or moist or
mou (ill, eh?)

let's palatalize

how-to weather moving the cold front's descent on local
farmers' bright cuisine stalls wet railyard beyond old CN
pallets of nowhere dispirited cloud of liquid drops cold
to the bone nuclei dust ice salt

or politicize the pale

mountains back to back orographic showers salt building's
wooden truss structure rising red from leaks abandoned
paper recycling to that cloud bank money hungers more

mouths you wet brewpub a dank night shelter “athlete’s
living room” now chronicles wet city blues cats fish rain
ocean wise the mouth moves relentless eddies to current
what the city drinks (rain) it eats is people

this city: shrouded

wind strum wires Jerry's Cove music standing
hulls rock in their lines virid wave on wave oncoming stands of cedar
shreds through fog lift mimetic wind-rustle thrash or throb endless once
to hand at Jerry's camp

their skidders, flumes

their 'finest timber'

towed

by the Maggie Rogers past Si'kheylish past Khwaykhway's standing
houses to be burnt

to booms afloat to Empire booming grounds
at Gore a building boom's on track its dummy lines of ownership

slip this viridescent sheen of green onshore storm clearing the clearings
smoke shroud or fog sawdust burning off downtown as if

this city

could re-green building transport green

handle a new wave now

economy size

eco finger its members (citizens say

antique eaten (copper) roofing (o hotel hothouse hosting roof upon roof
(not by a long-handled axe though "whole paycheque" sports a vegetal
wall traffic streams down underground long wavelength desire its
disconnect

O Jericho

desire nets you in your strappy heels one hand
smoothing jeanskin asstight sashay confidence
on the run sudden dealer stalks stock gambles

sino forests of fraud axed at street
level where the

faded walls of Ee'yullmough felled long waves ago