

**SEAN HOWARD / disjunctures (possible poems, for richard outram)**

Explicable now are the poem's radical disjunctures of  
sequential logic, syntax, level of language and address.

—Peter Sanger, *Through Darkling Air:  
The Poetry of Richard Outram*

I dwell in Possibility—  
A fairer House than Prose  
—Emily Dickinson

*& meaning is being*

like the world: the willow braiding  
its image on the stream, the intimate  
distance of silence

•

modernity, solely human, assiduously  
withholding ways from itself: poly-  
phonic webs, the nominal shreds  
of reality

•

this world, though less  
than love, naturally supernatural: sifted  
water, body of god, not easy when  
words disrupt poetry

•

black market, the imaginative

economy: clawed, prose to threads; un-  
surprised—‘here is outtram,’

said blake

•

the poet saving accidents

for later: images left on the steps—  
water in tatters, the brightness

he writes

•

riding the goddess’s

cycle (*quis custodiet?*): towards  
the vortices of

prose . . .

•

child, the poem

left unattended: the Word listening,  
the man overhearing

the light

•

outram's arrows, moonlight

in the chamber: my unidentifiable voice (  
the swerves of a dress); rumour—eros  
& sophia . . .

•

the future-present

tense of art: reason aging, the self  
sufficient? the poem crouch-  
ing, poised

•

divine, trees transmit

light: rain in the dictionary,  
language just god's  
old address

•

desk—stage

hands (making a play for  
her): sex, slowly re-  
covering

•

man, light's lethal

creature (faustus's moon—luna nowhere  
to be seen): ominous, cassandra's  
silence

•

dreams, outram calling

the wound: poetry, *child's-play?*, to  
survive appropriation &  
di      smissal

•

terms that open

holes in themselves (prose—surfaces pre-  
pared): streams we expect trees  
to reflect

•

belief in the maze (the

long jade thunder): lear—'look,  
nothing in outram's  
dictionary!'

•

rare, he thought—poetry of the

kind that matters (in the silence that  
accompanies): & *meaning is being*  
*like the world*