

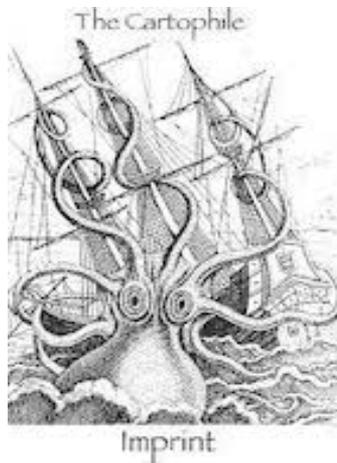
Welcome to **Issue Four, Spring 2024**. I hope this **International Arts and Literature** zine provides some respite and inspiration in this age of unbridled capitalism. Thank you so much for all the artists and writers who have contributed to this issue and issues past.

This issue is about **the cut-up, the collage, and repurposing**. Some sources are revealed in the end notes, others remain a mystery.

I find it wonderful that collage art began in avant garde circles and now happens in nearly every kindergarten art class around the country.

# Skullcrushing Hummingbird

Issue 4/ Spring 2024



**Laurence Wilhelm Lillvik - Editor**



*fig.1*

## **Contributing Artists:**

**Cover / Theresa Arrison**  
**Figures 1,2,3 / Eva Lake**  
**Figure 4 / Jill Storithz**  
**Figures 5, 7 / Colin Keating**  
**Figure 6 / Heather Ritchie**  
**Figure 8 / Frank Spignese**  
**Figure 9 / Paul Haines**  
**Figure 10 / Trevor Rieck**  
**Figure 11 / Cattreena Stone**  
**Figure 12 / Kier Cooke Sandvik**  
**Figure 13 / Kevin Cascell**  
**Figure 14 / Gary Bunting**  
**Figure 15 / Emily P. Dunne**  
**Figure 16 / Rachel Mulder**  
**Figure 17 / Nate Perkins**  
**Figure 18 / Wyrnfoot**  
**Figure 19 / casey g lowe**  
**Figure 20 / Carl Lillvik**  
**Figure 21 / Bryce Richardson**  
**Figure 22 / Michael Walsh**

## QUEEN PRINCESSES / Cynthia Nelson

### 1. The Set-Up

They wear fancy dresses with sewing flowers  
Jewels, and everything that is beautiful except a dirty dog  
And then the princess kicks the dog off her body  
Rainbow jewels! Rainbow jewels!  
Ruby and iris and emerald and beautiful chickens  
Beautiful turkey, beautiful house, beautiful baby stroller  
The moms and the princesses are very alike  
They have the same old name  
The girls put a crown on the foal  
Their boyfriends came in dirty disgusting clothes and got  
slime all over them  
Then they grew tails and went, "Ew, tails!" and they  
screamed  
White and green and black snakes tied the princesses up  
The snake tied them up while the boyfriends threw slime at  
them  
They are not real boyfriends, they are robot boyfriends  
They felt free except the boyfriends were still there  
The big snake got them at the party, at the party they drink  
Coca-Cola  
What happened?  
The snake is too tight but she can get out  
It is a fake snake  
Don't call 911



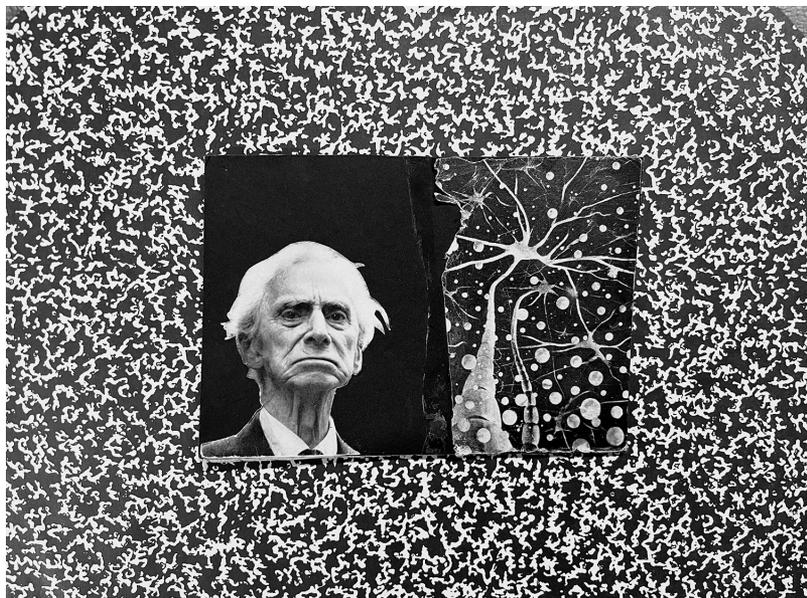
*fig.2*



*fig.3*

## 2. The Strength of Charlotte

It's like Superman, OK?  
A kitty was trapped  
She was trapped by a wicked witch  
Charlotte lifted up the snake and got the kitty back  
It was a super-strength Charlotte  
Strong as Wonder Woman  
Strong as wind  
Strong as 500 horses and a bulldog  
Hey sister! Our kitty got caught by the witch!  
Girl, I mean witch, witch girls!  
They went to a castle that didn't look very good  
They pulled back their hair and got their rings on  
Really really really not good  
She put on one of the witches' dresses  
Even though she hated blue, she had to put it on  
WE ONLY OBEY REVOLTA  
WE ONLY OBEY REVOLTA  
She was one of the hex girls  
She had black hair and red clothes  
She went to a party where she had to sing  
There were no boys at the party only girls  
They sang the hex girls song  
YEAH YEAH  
YAY YAY  
When she was a little girl, she drooled  
She liked snakes, frogs and turtles  
She wasn't very polite  
She started to cry and went up to her room  
She came down looking like a vampire  
She flew into the air  
The boys were really robots  
And they missed her



*fig. 4*

### 3. Jumping

When I jump, my brain goes whoo whoo and turns around so I can go back in time and jump some more. And it's super fun jumping, it's like going up and down. Like flying, like a peacock, I feel like a peacock! Because peacocks jump and lose their feathers. Feathers feathers feathers, whoo! Me feel like we are peacock!

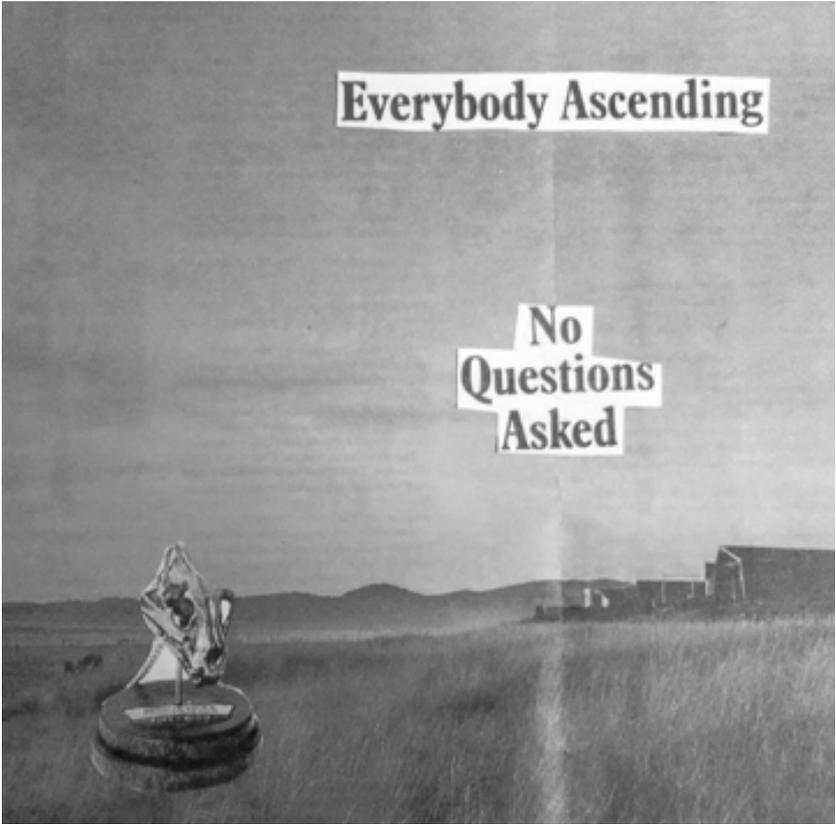
Jumpa jumpa jumpa. I jumped onto a big mattress and then I fell into the mattress.

There were spiders, dinosaurs, and all yucky and scary things, and slime and disgusting telephones. Disgusting pants, disgusting shirt, disgusting doggie! Disgusting lion!

There was one thing that was very pretty, a baby white horse. Her name was Vanilla, she had pink eye shadow, pink lipstick and a little bow that was pink. I rode her, it was so fun. Then I had to go back to my stinky room, stinky mattress. I screamed because the perfume didn't smell good when I used it.

Oh I've got smells, I've got little containers of smells all over my bedroom. I hear what you hear, except I don't really understand. I can't understand animals.

What about a chipmunk? I don't see them very often, so I don't understand their language. I eat dog food, and bones.



*fig.5*

## **NONE of the Heartburn of this Marriage Scandal is True / A mixed up retelling by HL Milne**

Sheba says I couldn't possibly understand what it feels like, after twenty years of marriage, to be kissed by someone other than your husband; to feel the pressure of a stranger's mouth on yours...I've always been so grateful to be married- so relieved that I would never have to be naked in front of a stranger again. But, I'd forgotten how exhilarating it is to expose yourself... to be a little scared. \*

She wonders what she's doing in this morning. She wonders if her husband has disappeared silently in the night, leaving her to wake alone. No, she thinks, no, of course he hasn't. That's not what other husbands do. Only hers.\*\*

If everybody was so reverent of the institute of marriage, how did all the adultery get committed? \*

Sometimes I believe that love dies but hope springs eternal. Sometimes I believe that hope dies but love springs eternal. Sometimes I believe that sex plus guilt equals love, and sometimes I believe that sex plus guilt equals good sex. Sometimes I believe that love is as natural as the tides, and sometimes I believe that love is an act of will. Sometimes I believe that some people are better at love than others, and sometimes I believe that everyone is faking it. Sometimes I believe that love is essential, and sometimes I believe that only reason love is essential is that otherwise you spend all your time looking for it. \*\*\*

"Why do you feel you have to turn everything into a story?"

So I told her why.

Because if I tell the story, I control the version.

Because if I tell the story, I can make you laugh, and I would rather have you laugh at me than feel sorry for me.

Because if I tell the story, it doesn't hurt as much.

Because if I tell the story, I can get on with it." \*\*\*

Alix Summer, it appears, is a reasonably well-known podcaster and journalist. She has eight thousand followers on Instagram and the same on Twitter. Her bio says: " Mum, journo, feminist, professional busybody & nosey parker, failure yoga fanatic, Queen's Park dweller/ lover." \*\*



*fig.6*

## **CUTTING UP / Marina Caamaño**

I like sports  
But not enough to watch them on TV  
I hate spelling mistakes  
And palm hearts too  
I knew good wine  
And also the worst  
I died for a while  
But I didn't see the light  
I believe in God  
Although I was a friend of the devil  
I didn't go to Paris  
But I walked through other worlds  
I know where I'm going  
But I made the path from experiences  
I love you  
But I can't trust you:  
You don't like the Simpsons



fig.7

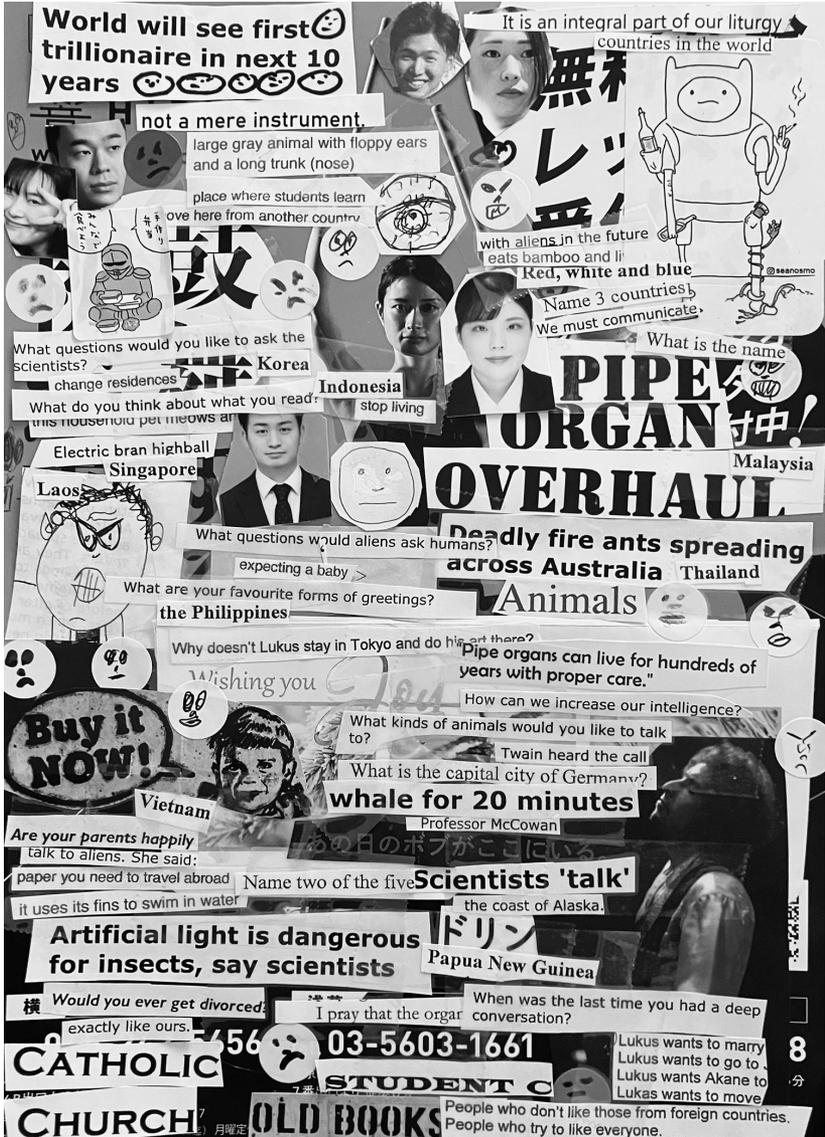


fig.8

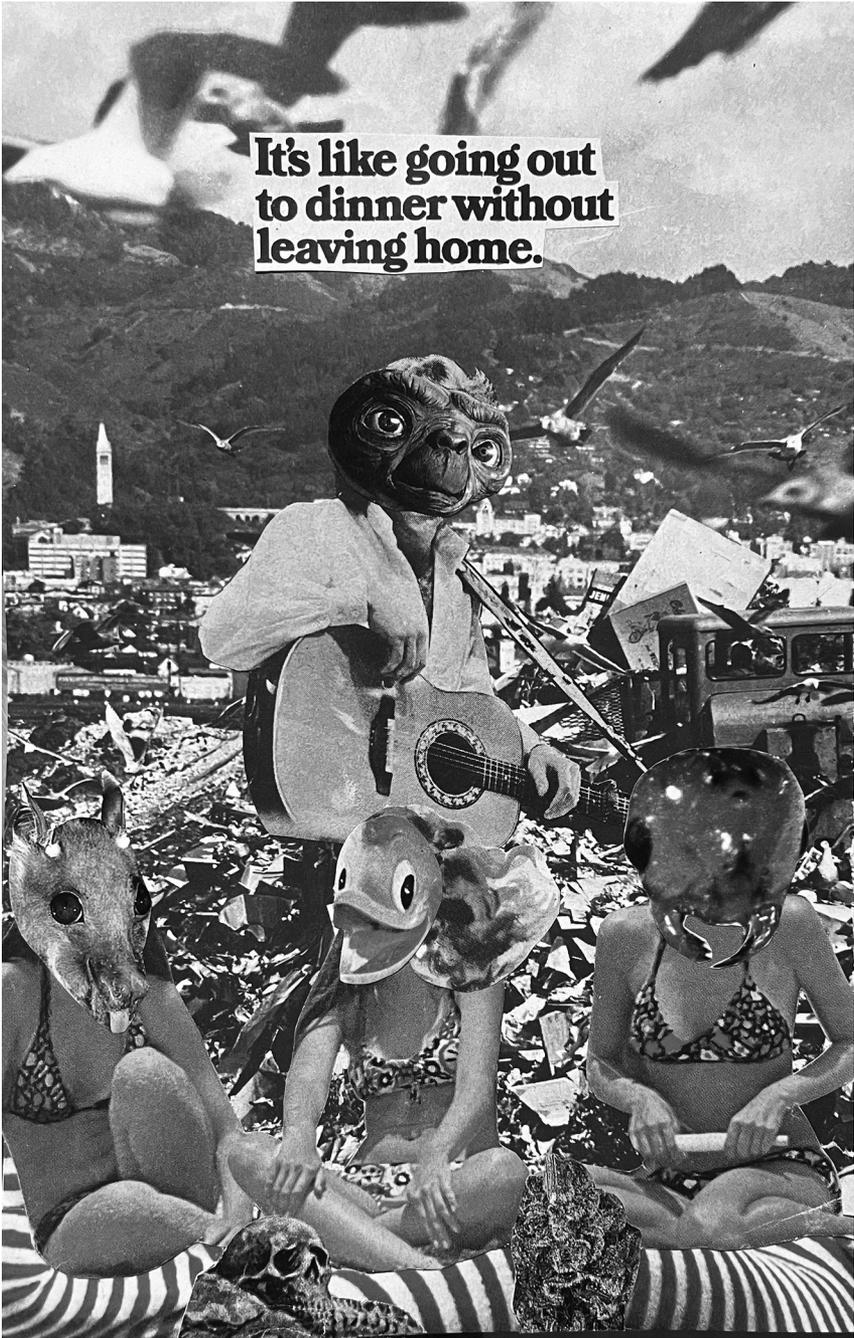


"The hereafter may be the full ability of consciously living in any chosen soul,  
in any number of chosen souls, all of them unconscious of their interchangeable burden."

-VN

*fig.9*

**It's like going out  
to dinner without  
leaving home.**



*fig.10*



*fig. 11*

## **INDEX / Kevin Stack**

After a night of driving rain, the skies  
After the tiger, after the storm, after silence  
After a winter's silence  
After four years  
After an island, after a train journey  
Afternoon on Washington Street  
After teaching, after the palaces  
After the whirlwind when all things  
After you have gone  
After all these years  
After a night of rain the brilliant screen  
After laboring birth, the clean stripped hull  
a desperate child, I run up to this gate.

## YOUR ANSWERS ARE IMPORTANT / Cynthia Nelson

### 1. desert scene

rip a piece of paper so it is jagged  
the more jagged, the better the mountains look  
make the grass grow & change color  
use the same ripped paper to create the sky  
make the cactus, grass, centipedes  
aim the direction the grass should grow by angling  
you can also get speckled effects  
by blowing lightly

### 2. rubber stamps

use the white pen on a stamp as a secret message  
color berries, light a candle with yellow that turns red  
create a warm glow by blowing blue  
that turns chartreuse over a lit candle stamp

### 3. borders & paper cutting

use lace doilies to create borders & backgrounds  
by blowing colors over them  
cut paper with pinking shears & paper edgers  
blow on top of paper snowflakes  
or discarded scraps from stencils  
the dolphin looks nice this way

### 4. refilling

the box says they are non-refillable because you  
SHOULD NOT  
they do not always wash out & they are toxic  
use with water, vinegar, or vegetable dye  
keep your picture dry if you want to save it



fig. 12

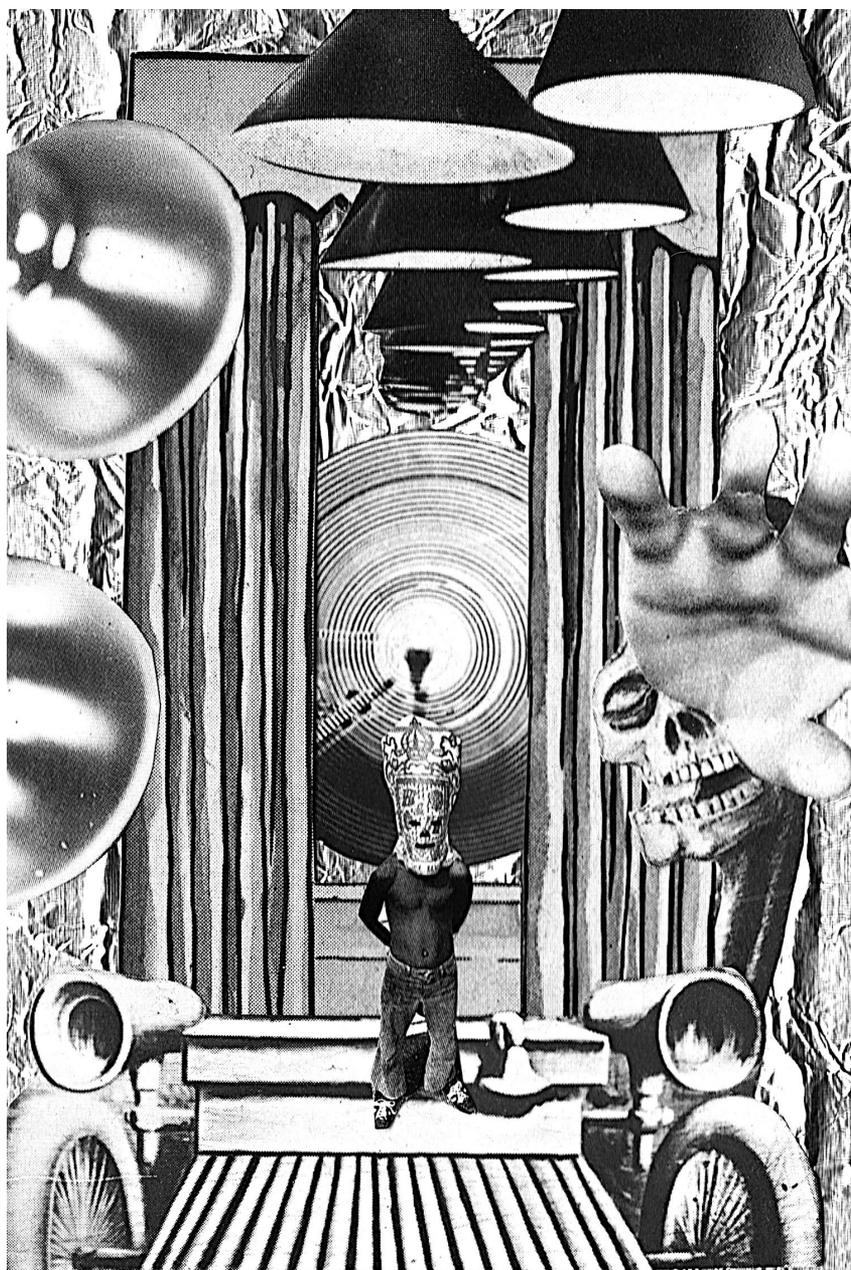
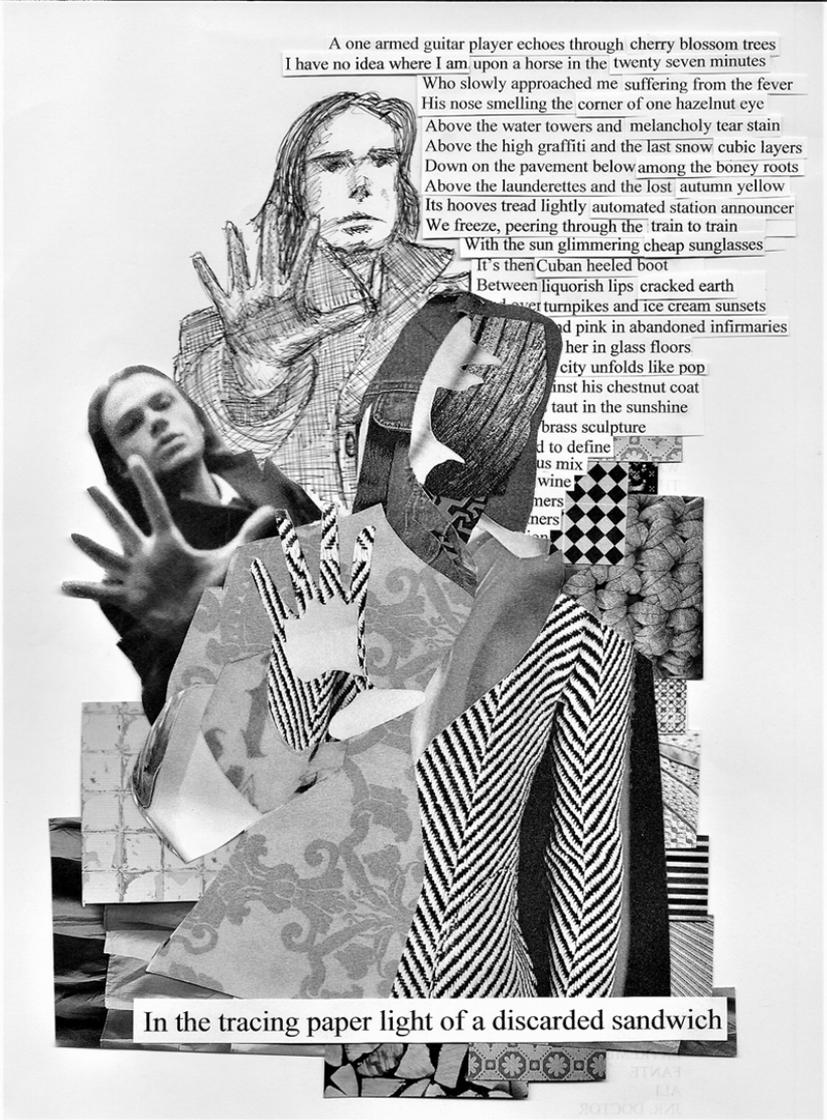


fig. 13

## THE SIMPLE THINGS / Marina Caamaño

If you want to save your soul  
Look for the magic  
In the simple things in life.  
Music, beach and a beer  
Adventures, company and good humor  
Holidays in New York  
Poetry and prose, the same thing.  
Cinema, art and everything related.  
Let it have flavor.  
Smoking, drinking whiskey and a line of cocaine  
Drink mate, travel the world and play sports  
Practice soccer and basketball  
Swim, walk the dog and have a coffee.  
Wine, fernet and a cold coke  
A pill, an acid and rock and roll  
Bike, eat fat and go to the square.  
Little things can become big things  
Share, enjoy and have a great time  
Let's dance salsa and bachata  
Everything lasts a moment  
Forever  
(+) smiles (-) eiffel tower (+) nature  
(-) pose (+) simplicity



A one armed guitar player echoes through cherry blossom trees  
I have no idea where I am upon a horse in the twenty seven minutes  
Who slowly approached me suffering from the fever  
His nose smelling the corner of one hazelnut eye  
Above the water towers and melancholy tear stain  
Above the high graffiti and the last snow cubic layers  
Down on the pavement below among the boney roots  
Above the laundrettes and the lost autumn yellow  
Its hooves tread lightly automated station announcer  
We freeze, peering through the train to train  
With the sun glimmering cheap sunglasses

It's then Cuban heeled boot  
Between liquorish lips cracked earth  
Over turnpikes and ice cream sunsets  
and pink in abandoned infirmaries  
her in glass floors  
city unfolds like pop  
against his chestnut coat  
taut in the sunshine  
brass sculpture  
d to define  
us mix  
wine  
mers  
mers  
an

In the tracing paper light of a discarded sandwich

fig. 14

Fig. 35. The upper atmosphere of the sun – its beautiful corona of glowing gas – contains valuable information.



fig.15

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO INVISIBILITY / Aaron Fagan

Acquire the severed head of a man who has committed suicide. Bury the head with seven black beans on a Wednesday before Sunrise, and water the ground for seven days with fine brandy. On the eighth day, the beans will sprout. Persuade a little girl To pick and shell them. Pop one in your mouth and you will Turn invisible. If you don't have eight days, gather water from A fountain at midnight, boil it, and drop in a live black cat. Let it simmer for a day, fish out what remains, throw the meat Over your left shoulder, then take the bones and, while looking In a mirror, place them one by one between the teeth on the left Side of your mouth. If you're going to fail to disappear, try Reciting the names of demons in Latin or carrying around a slip Of paper with twelve numbers arranged in a mystical pattern. You'll know you've turned invisible when you turn invisible.

AMONG YOUR TYPES  
OF BREATHING PATTERNS

your brain  
other parts  
out to brain back

going on  
nerves carry nervous  
speak and how to  
to your  
it's made up,  
you think

your cord  
tells you to  
of a type of  
center is  
take in  
does without

move your  
system uses  
limbs and your  
spinal (they help) cord  
see, for  
keeps track

blushing, sweating.



fig.16



fig.17



book titles  
from the War in General  
bookshelf

by casey g. lowe



cruel April,  
long time passing

a season of youth,  
I was right on time.

light at the end of the tunnel  
passed on  
lost boys &  
ghost soldiers,

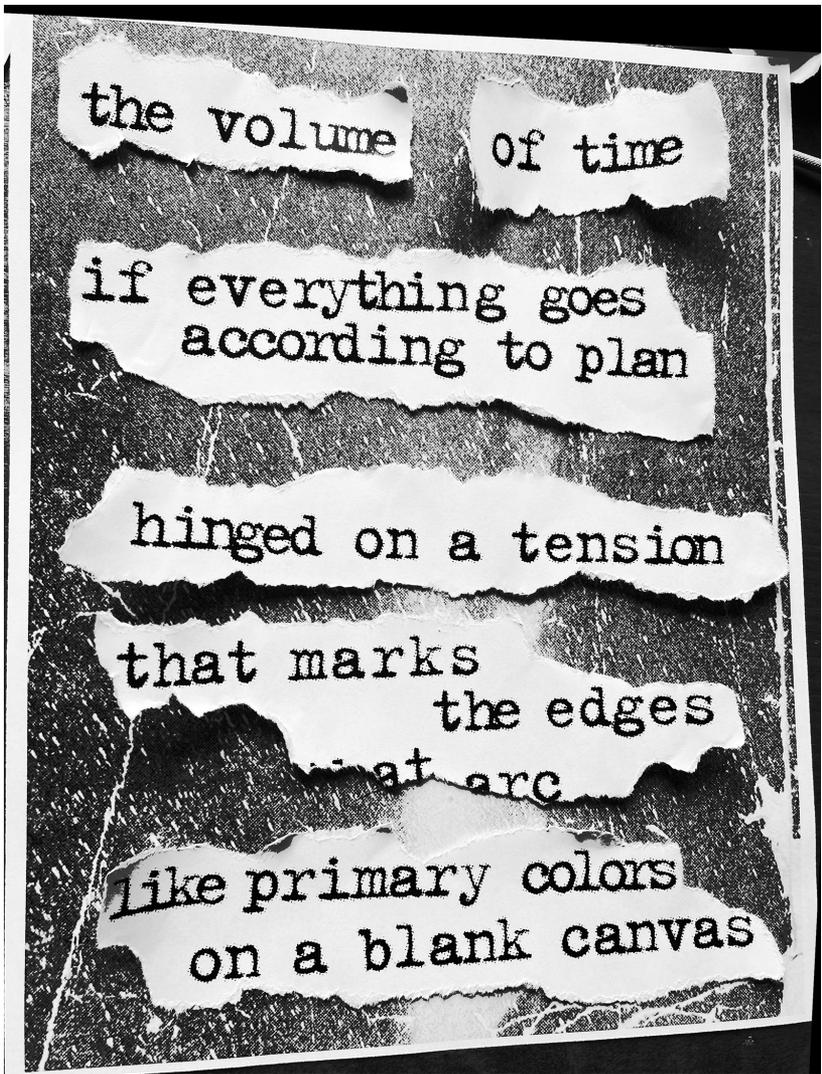
no shining armor.

American scripture,  
the book of war  
never done

fig. 19



*fig.20*



the volume

of time

if everything goes  
according to plan

hinged on a tension

that marks  
the edges  
that arc

Like primary colors  
on a blank canvas

fig.21



*fig.22*

## **Criterion (excerpt) / Laurence Lillvik**

Straight into a labyrinthine comic adventure involving a haunted house, psychotropic candy, and a murder mystery - the youngest generation of a Japanese family are forced to submit to a series of cruelly-enforced family traditions. Their beloved spider whose bond with a runt pig yields timeless truths about friendship, cycles of life, and growing up. Baring her knee on a ladder under a blooming cherry tree, she unwittingly incites a moral crisis, her best friend is pronounced brain-dead during minor surgery, and she discovers that healthy people are falling into comas. When she is rejected by her love, the young woman is sent into a downward spiral of psychosexual depression, promiscuity, and revolutionary collaboration. Infected with a virus that sends them into a homicidal frenzy, the locals turn on each other in an orgy of bloody violence.

## **SELECT SOURCES REVEALED:**

**Cynthia Nelson / Queen Princesses** - transcribing the 2 sisters I was babysitting in like 2003

### **HL Milne:**

Taken out of context from three novels.

\* Notes On A Scandal, Zoe Heller

\*\*None Of This Is True, Lisa Jewell

\*\*\* Heartburn, Nora Ephron

**Marina Caamaño:** I used to do that to beat anxiety, mixing the tinder lines, you know those that people write in "write something about you" I became addicted to doing that.

**Kevin Stack:** Index (After, May Sarton, Collected Poems, 1930-1993)

**Rachel Mulder:** cut-up poem made from an article about the nervous system

**Wyrtfoot:** Dragon illustration by Laurence Lillvik

**Bryce Richardson:** I used an article I had written for my newsletter which often feels more like an exercise in form and void-screaming than anything resembling journalism. This particular article is about the songs Man on the Moon by Sugar and She Will Only Bring You Happiness by Mclusky.

**Laurence Lillvik:** Taken from Criterion Collection movie synopses. Chapbook available from Greying Ghost Press.



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(SkullHum in Finnish/No Fish In Somali) is a collaborative music and noise project specializing in live composition. You may even be in KalloHumina and not know it yet.

<https://kallohumina.bandcamp.com/album/volume-yksi>

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