



mouth
piece

PAUL KLINGER



MOUTHPIECE

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little red leaves textile series / dusie kollektive

Before 1958, everyone had boar bristle in their mouth. It was stiff and irritating to the gums. People complained of “soggy toothbrushes.” This was before the miracle of nylon tufts came to oral hygiene. Animal bristle, the hairs off a hog’s neck, horse hair, etc. would be cut and tied to a bone handle. Napoleon brushed his teeth with a silver-gilt brush tufted with horsehair. The first nylon toothbrush was introduced in 1958 and was marketed as Dr. West’s Miracle Tuft Toothbrush. With its synthetic bristles, the new product promised longer life, greater cleansing power, waterproofing and “no bristle shedding” for the price of fifty cents. An example of this toothbrush is pictured on the cover of this chapbook.

“Locate *I love you* some-where in teeth and eyes...”

Robert Creeley, The Language

NOW SNAPS THE FLINT IN EVERY TOOTH
HART SAYS NOW SNAPS THE FLINT
HART CRANE'S IMPLICIT WORLD TOOTH
SNAPS IMPLICITLY WITHOUT A SOUND INTO
THE SOCKET
NOW SNAP TOOTH SNAP



mouthbreather

but my teeth were not favorable. I had SNAGGLE
SNAGGLE

all over me
i was to become another snaggle-uncle

my own snaggle-father

haloed in my own snaggleness
a toothiness a bigness a buckness I dare say
to be removed a small mouth what big teeth

for a small mouth what a problem to have
not having enough room for one's own dentition

a dentition of one's own

Call me mouthpiece. Dawn wants mouth peace.
"suspension of breathing," also apnoea, 1719, Modern
Latin, from Greek apnoia "absence of respiration,"
from apnos "without breathing," from a- "not" + pnein
"to breathe"

notation as reversible as teeth

WANT MY TEETH BACK MY BACK TEETH WANT

GOLD TOOTH GRANDFATHER MY GRANDFATHER
TOOTH GOLD

PIG TUSK OR TOOTH OIL OR NOT PULP
PULP NOT OR OIL TOOTH OR TUSK PIG

NOTATION AS REVERSIBLE AS TEETH TEETH
AS REVERSIBLE AS NOTATION

MY BACK TEETH FLOATING BUT WHAT OF WHAT
BUT FLOATING TEETH BACK

TO FLOAT THE TEETH OF THE HORSE TAKE A FILE
A TAKE THE HORSE TEETH TO FLOAT



crown

neck

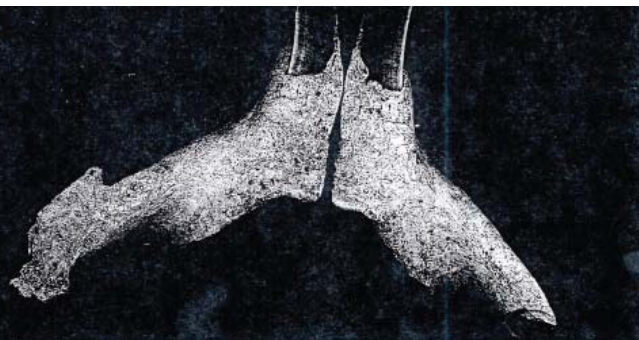
root

spike

prong

sabre

alveolus: little hollow



THE THOUGHT OF THE NUTRIA LEADING ITSELF
THRU THE WATER AND THE WEEDS WITH
ORANGE INCISORS MOUNTED LIKE
LITTLE BOWSPRITS FIGURHEADS ORANGE MERMAIDS
BLAZE OF TEETH THROUGH THE DULL SWAMP BROWN
THE ALLIGATOR FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND
A WHITE GLEAM BETWEEN A BIRDISH YELLOW
CLAMP
POINTING ITSELF THE NUTRIA GOES OUT
AND UP A BANK TO REST UNDER BRUSH
AND YEARS LATER THE BOTTOM
JAW IN MY HAND THINKING OF
CRUSTACEANS BECAUSE OF THE TEETH
WHICH I HAD NOT RECOGNIZED AS TEETH

garwhip

a
n
g
l
e
of
the
teeth
in gar
surfacing
rows auger
eager for
air or tooth
gulping needles
row harder
olive fins

Most dorsally.

flash to flying snap
congregations ganoid
trash teeth or thrash
heap of fins circling
numbers of teeth
how supplemental
blotches how many
sounds are the

teeth as ragged as

the gar obli-

gate teeth laced

snaps of air

the Spears

Garwhip

Garskin

Gartooth

elongated

spatula of

America

i had hoped to make an alphabet of teeth, all the forms resting in boxes suggested it, as the roots of the teeth bend in ways that suggest meanings can be distinguished. The linguistic capabilities of a carnassial or incisor, whereas a molar seems bound / boulder / solid / vowel / in the middle of. The curl of beaver's incisor almost a "C" the teeth of homodonts become my vowels, my most common usages. come on homodonts! No variations, repeat after repeat, maybe size maybe all the tiny ornamental teeth of mammals make the best text. the deer's teeth are boxy, symbols of containment, of secrecy, uncanniness. The conical teeth of *mississippiensis* being common and pig teeth, half-tusks, stepping out, elaborately lengthy by comparison.



the roots, the dendritic swirls of letter forms. the serifs of teeth

rudiments

chew sticks
calf-bone
twigpick &
Bone teeth.
spaced
the old
row shape
rubbing
softer
periodontal
decisions
such be
rounded
gentler
Tufts
inches
chewing
inches
brushing
aside
hoghair
bristles

ah chinchilla!

ah the teeth of All Chinchilla attained and intimately described as instances in them of chalky whispers of wispy perspirants nearly inaudible vibratos Chinchilla voices through chinchilla teeth fluttering up the way a tiny dentition and the teeth squeeze the singing voice of the animal into incised patterns we've never known as if the Chinchilla had hooves to knock out its shortness to whinny through fur and diastema and what yellow teeth



Matilda's teeth, which have not yet happened, the teeth
of the future are now gummed there is a wall in Rome
where we place our baby teeth.

No there is a tree for those sacraments, in yellowland.



waschbar

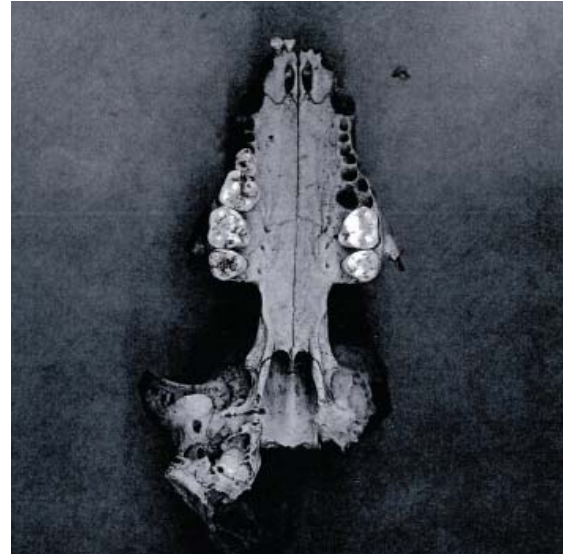
the teeth of the washing bear are white
the teeth of the washing bear are fierce like cashews
the teeth of the washing bear turn upon crawfish
the teeth of the washing bear are bared near trash cans
the washing bear darts from tree to tree and flees from rain.
Behold the washing bear in the storm drain
Behold the washing bear, soaked to the bone, a real bandito of the rain.
have you seen the washing bear get its shine on
they say the washing bear comes before the Dog
prepares the way for that star
the washing bear is minor but can be seen
I have seen the washing bear leading the Dog
I have observed the washing bear douse at night.
the washing bear is not washing.

klinginess

TEETH CLING TO ME THEY CANNOT BE
REMOVED I AM MAGNETIZED BY THE
MILK OF MAGNESIA AND THE TEETH OF
MAGNESIA FLOCK TO MY MILKINESS
WHICH IS AIDED AND ABETTED BY MY
BREAST OF TEETH I AM BREAST TOOTH I AM
MASTODON I AM MOLDED FROM THE HAIRS
OF THE LOWLAND SWAMP ELEPHANT OF
SOUTHEAST TEXAS



*Circa 1971 Richard Wayne Johnson maternal grandfather atop
bulldozer near Cotton Lake unearths the jawbone of a mastodon
in SE Texas while clearing some land for development / the
fossil later encased in glass with an engraved plaque in the lobby
of his construction office amid scenes of taxidermy quail and
bobcats / what becomes my father's law office how I still dream
of lifting the rest of that elephant out of the marsh*



root Dens prudent tends 'silent'

bicurcation

cowtooth

head They possess

turns beyond

o winter, ordinary herbage,

hindward and from russet, bushy hemispheres

become kind and Ordinary and low

as Grinders they are

allotted

deer tooth age

Generally, deer cheek
deer sharp of gum
dentine deer wear
two will (appear molar)
Years in enamel.

All of cheek tooth
erupting fool of incisors
may twice a tooth
cheek thinking
(brown there a fawn
Look

of wider when .
“cupping.”
lingual tooth twisted
with will
looking muzzle in.



Mild collection

known bones the jaws

wood a jaw

canines occupy

bone. true in

tended

cleft



*In an album of teeth i have located i love you in an album Creeley instructs, locate I love you somewhere in teeth and eyes I have done that. i have performed that quite literally as **albus** white as Latin as whiteness as album as teeth collecting into whiteness as blank as those I love as loving blanks as my wife's cracked molar I love as blankly as i love you as teeth as gold crowns as my grandfather had a crown as beloved album as crowned as love as recording the teeth that ate Lizzie as the white album has redundancy as matches mementos and blank tablets which list names as teeth as blank as tablets and detritus of tenderness as incisors as infant beaver as curlicues as Matilda develops as candid as votives somewhere in the teeth of children.*

PAUL KLINGER is the author of RUBBLE PAPER, PAPER RUBBLE (*Further Other Book Works*, 2013). He has published several chapbooks as a member of the Dusie Poetry Kollektiv.

This *little red leaves textile series* chapbook was designed and sewn by Dawn Pendergast in Houston, TX.





LRL

little red leaves textile series

www.textileseries.com