

C. S. CARRIER

EN GARDE, OR ACTIONS TO RELATE TO ONESELF

To enpanel tarragon & roast the goat in its narrow frame
To unfasten the clasps of infectious isms
To pluck the ruby lozenges from the torsos rupturing the streets
To cultivate the garden with bloodmeal then silken the gall bladder with eggs & milk
To mine the uvula of nitrogen
To enjamb the theremin & turntable, the smartphone & nounphrase
To vomit gallium arsenide into the compasses of disciples
To fold encephalitis into a red crane, of the air in it
Of the green tucked under the shirt as a way of being
Of the land to pulse through, as a stent
Of kerosene, a scarf in the grass
To pledge allegiance to entropy & the cosmic alligator, dear Ouroboros
To entomb the Fabergé eggs of the transitive verb
To swaddle the chupacabra in a shawl to harvest dry the bile of its progeny
To wander the asphalt genocide, the carillon mechanics of bitumen refineries
To resonate the stars their enigmas
Entr'acte: the image of standing beneath a mulberry tree strung with glass lanterns
Of crossing the stream before it turns detergent
Of making love through the silver tendrils this home is
Of writing its opening onto paper
To transmit the natural renditions of a brackish langue
To annotate in vast compendiums the city shapes
To enumerate the four elements in a high res field or machine
To execute art by ensconcing it in sense
To polish the reliquaries & rustoleum the yards yellowing with spent uranium
To drink wine on the porch while drought begins to denude the pecans
To ponder the graywhale, that its neurons might invite consciousness
To remember Aix-en-Provence, a land of baths & orchards & bouillabaisse
Of lavender windowboxes & branched abstractions
To attend the funerals of ballerinas & mechanics, baritones & phantoms
To center & decenter the wreaths
To disgorge the patriarchy organ with hyphens & antiphonals
To picket the president's flannelshirted ranch, necktied penthouse
To sightsee Kennebunkport's crabshacks & tillandsia boutiques under a rainbow
To stand before the Capital Angel clouded with censers
Of drying intellect & hydrogenating arteries
Of infrared thighs that slouch toward innuendoes of tanned hipbones
Of youth pixelated with Nintendoes into a pastoral dronescape
To awaken to the sun's anemone
To spew endorphins into rebel algorithms

FROG LEVEL

Where the land flattening beside Richland Creek floods with frogs lungless wedges ribbiting into the night

Where a frog painted on one building where it still squats happily winking & straddling a level

Where the traindepot stood until the car came where it burned down & was rebuilt when great granddad emerged a few blocks away

Where the saloon was the car dealership was where the feedstore the furniturstore the candystore was where the coffeehouse is that no one foresaw

Where the bandmill whose discarded site Bandmill Bottom became a ship my papaw played pirates on & first kissed maybe my grandmaw

Where Dellwood Depot Commerce & Water matrixed crosstown traffic to downtown or to juniorhigh

Where the bikers would divebar in town where once a woman flashed us by where old White Shoes would pass out

Where were the frogs now after the Giles Chemical fire Papaw & Dad fought spewed into the air & the mouth

Where I littleleagued on the Elk's Lodge baseballfields where my dad & I watched Halley's dirty snowball

Where I fell through the ice in the green house where I learned to garden to dip Skoal to mimic hiphop to splay hips

Where folks would wash their blood with prayers with rocks where I tried to scour my bones of myths & apples

C.S. Carrier is the author of *Mantle* (H_NGM_N Books, 2013) and *After Dayton* (Four Way Books, 2008). His most recent chapbook is */anode a/node an/ode* (Horse Less Press, 2014). His poems have been widely published in many journals. He lives in Clarksville, AR.