

Jen Hofer

Front Page News

Front Page News involved a daily practice of making a cut-up poem out of the front page of the local newspaper from the city where I woke on that day. The project lasted for a year, from my birthday in 2011 until my birthday in 2012. Each day's poem contains between 39 and 43 words cut from the front page. More often than not, I tried to make connected cuts, using white space as a kind of river or circulatory system linking phrases whose harmonics might otherwise have gone unnoticed. These instances of front page news are inextricably connected to the occurrences, brutalities and banalities of the daily news. In the case of this particular week, March 12 – 18, 2011, the front page was filled with language swirling around the earthquake, tsunami, and resulting nuclear disaster that were unleashed in Japan on March 11, 2011.



Los Angeles

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

vanish

to spell out

"HELP US" or

wrenching
viewers

minutes

the coast of

minutes of knowing, of waiting, of bracing

refining

its nuclear

loss

refining

the world's

likely

volatility into

the risk

spellbound by inability to do anything

sunny
magnitude

to strike

a millennium

Year of 19_

Year of 19—

Year of 19—

Los Angeles

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

zone

number
red dead
earthquake

reeling
to

pluck
inundated

blazes
hundreds of

thousands of people
dazed
second
dawn

red

closer
complex, where

meltdowns at

quote

meltdown

red in

that

concern

of a meltdown

react

Dozens

believe
posed
radiation

the city's outskirts
congested

Year of 19__

Year of 19__

Year of 19__





Los Angeles

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

blast

world converge
devastated

and
and

With the death
quake

recorded history
ultimately

people

placed by

the massive swath
of destruction

blast

containment

+ reactors

that occur

in a separate reactor

secret

speaking

broadcast, said

the reactor

intact and “we think

of

emission

Year of 19__

Year of 19—

Year of 19—



Los Angeles

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011

loved

lampposts, brick walls
concrete riverbeds

clear power
steel
-structure
breached
and another
the same
caught fire

radiation
— chilling

atomic
and
waning days
known
lightly

people within

elevated radiation

"We are ready to be killed. Everyone's ready here."

blue
solemn

“everything we can”

Year of 19_

Year of 19—

Year of 19—



Los Angeles

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

weather

silver
waves of

ether
breathing
clear
among the very

missing
dead, perhaps the

the disaster

the dead

the body and blood

has a half-life, the time the atoms

inhaled or
concentrate the

half-life

in dust

in bones and bone has a half-life

Year of 19_

Year of 19—

Year of 19—



Los Angeles

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011

information

in the vicinity of the nuclear complex: People are

thankful
foresight
enough

municipal
near-
people

living
evacuation zone
nuclear we

we
public
gasoline
the

get too close to

the plant.

lives

“radiation refugees”

in the
area for

"We've gotten no help. We have no information."

Year of 19_

Year of 19—

Year of 19—



Los Angeles

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

stoicism

time
intense enough
exceed even
limit
limit
logic
arch
workers.
allowable
are going to be
among
what workers typically
radiation being
stricken
a grim choice:
could
contain
workers
workers will eventually die
quickly rotate
levels
could
rapid
exposure
significantly
crease
risk

Year of 19_

Year of 19—

Year of 19—

Jen Hofer is a Los Angeles-based poet, translator, social justice interpreter, teacher, knitter, book-maker, public letter-writer, urban cyclist, and co-founder (with John Pluecker) of the language justice and language experimentation collaborative [Antena](#). She publishes poems and translations with numerous small presses, including Action Books, Atelos, belladonna, Counterpath Press, Kenning Editions, Insert Press, Les Figues Press, Litmus Press, LRL Textile Editions, New Lights Press, Palm Press, Subpress, Ugly Duckling Presse, and in various DIY/DIT incarnations. Her visual-textual work is on view at [the Center for Land Use Interpretation's Wendover site](#). She teaches poetics, translation and bookmaking, and does language justice advocacy with [Antena Los Angeles](#).