

Breaking New Ground

text by Alan Sondheim

all circumstances are extenuating.

"if you want to understand what they're about, perhaps these works will open up the vast chasm of comprehension on the edge of falling apart - I can't think of any better pieces in this regard, and, for that matter, in the sheer beauty of fractured movement"

works based on choreia, return, withdrawal from broken edges (before one is cut) (before the sound loses its grasp) (before one is cut out (of the world) (of your acquaintance) (your grasp) (your body) (of your body my own)).

how does one write or circumscribe the body of movement within horizons defined by mappings of hyperbolic geometry in the circle? the edge isn't just asymptotic; from the outside, it's a bad pill. what looks like chance is a battlefield; what looks determined is incandescent birth.

"the battlefield is your last chance of being-alive, just as your birth is your first-chance of dying."

there are so many things these movements and sounds are not: listing narrows sublimity: just look, it's almost drained away. think of dance as a draining, symptom as style, medication-technique, how to get out of the hospital.

don't follow or recognize avatars, don't follow or recognize symptoms. they start with dim memories of body, with landscapes that accompany us, we're hounded.

we're hounded by death, but we're also hounded by disease, troubles, fevers, forgetfulness, wrath, rage, ecstasy, visions, poverty, money, obligations, lovers, ennui, hallucinations, speed, crime, frustration, cataclysm, heat, cold, hunger, thirst, nightmares, mutilations, panic, neuroses, economies of attention, economies of the body, excretions, garbage, wounds, scars, allergic reactions, insect bites, age, bad eyesight, bad hearing, shudderings, shiverings, fear, belongings, jealousy, loathing, disgust, addictions.

the playing-field of hounding, playing-field of the hounded. one hounds, is hounded; the hounded hounds, hounding is hounded.

or like this: playing-field of haunting, of the haunted. one haunts, is haunted; the haunted haunts, haunting is haunted. "these texts, they are haunted."

if i write this sentence, thus; if i write this sentence beneath or within the sign of fever, migraine, incipient diabetes, tumors malign-benign. if i write this sentence beneath the symbolic of medication, bandaging, radiation treatment, dialysis. if i write this sentence gagged and splayed.

if i write this sentence to control you, if i write this sentence under your control. the order to work: persevere.

to persevere, endure, maenad-dance of self-devouring, maenad-music of self-control. how can that be, except to ensure that the beat is periodic, that repetition hungers.

the maenad feeds, hungers for repetition, desecrates it (the repeat-ing). they passed it on so far down the line that gender-sex and sex-gender change. they passed it down farther.

Who were they? Who's haunting us?