

Poetry contents

- Christopher (Kit) Kelen, *From a Book of Exercises* page 2
- B N Oakman, *No Exemption* page 6
- Maria Takolander, *Writer* page 8

TEXT poetry

Christopher (Kit) Kelen

From a *Book of Exercises*

framing

inside the open book
the poem

the poem a path
ready made
and
yet to travel

the world lies open
in it
and opening reveals the scene ...
so throw a circle round -

green field
bare hill
open ocean
patch of blue

how to feel?

thirsty
or hungry
sorry for yourself
or for the others more

where do you go?
nowhere but on into the picture

come to the floor of my flat,
but when I turn the key
and open I find...

a corridor
three doors inside

one is transparent
or I am through it
I see

the second is open

the third is the door of a safe
but ajar
I could heave it away
and squeeze in

which of the three?

choose one
out of the vanishing

it's somebody else's -
a crime scene
there's a football field
plain of ice
there's only the open sea

but you can look beyond it
for miles

know that once you step through
other way vanish

in the end you make a door out of words
and this will be the plank you float on

if you can paint
the flood
then it will
bring you
to the world you wish
and you might call that home

*

no part of speech is stable in China
(every word can have piss taken)
or **how to jabberwock**
(out of a list of words my students invented)

criterious
the sunbrim
halfly

fake up
this overthought

uh - huh

rhythmatically

so
hearting
dumbstrick
out of a sudden

awing paragraphy
adverberate

scareful the hazzle irresistiant
and so outstand the buffle

and eagering outstand
say I

shooking and boresome
doubtably troublous

this is the cerymomery
mysterical
it is
footlighted, meliorate

leaves me
a long time preperating
humourly arrestant

to them - the makers
languaging
I say:

moreover me not
however me else

true -
sarcasticism underjoys
yet we
examine pripority!

give hearting then
and awingly

you won't avoid
the overthought

let brevity be toppest

picturize!

but eyelessly
make up the world
perseverant

o aliened and worthful

transrasperate this lot!

Christopher (Kit) Kelen's most recent volumes of poetry are Dredging the Delta (a book of Macao poems and sketches), published in 2007 by Cinnamon Press (UK) and After Meng Jiao: Responses to the Tang Poet, published in 2008 by VAC (Chicago, IL). Kelen has taught Literature and Creative Writing for the last eight years at the University of Macau in south China.

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B N Oakman

No Exemption

*Obscurity is a happy place; I'm quite well known there.
(Anon.)*

I'm the arbiter of equivalence

see me
if you want exemptions
for passes at other universities

behold a young man
alert eager
the kind of student I like
the kind any teacher likes

can he tell me
who convened creative writing
at his old university?

he ignites with enthusiasm

that guy was the best
a fantastic lecturer
I loved going to his classes

he's sure I must know him too
certain I'd admire his work

I ask the great man's name

my applicant writhes
on the plastic chair
smites his brow
navigates through a storm of memories

finally
he says he can't remember

but he was bloody good
god he was good
best teacher I ever had

few get to listen to their epitaphs

memorable nonentities
we

B N Oakman writes poetry and short fiction which has appeared in, or been accepted for: Island, Acumen (UK), Antipodes (USA), Overland, Southerly, Eureka Street, Social Alternatives, LiNQ, Westerly, The Australian, The Age, The Canberra Times, Famous Reporter, Going Down Swinging, TEXT, Blue Giraffe, Tirra Lirra, The Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal, Imago, Australian Short Stories, Northern Perspective, The Mozzie, and in various anthologies and texts. An academic economist, he lives in Central Victoria and has taught in universities in Australia and England.
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TEXT poetry

Maria Takolander

Writer

Choose to be a child,
Hungry for the

Eternal mother.
Suck the life

Out of anyone
Who comes close

As if you deserve it.
Savage those

Who have dared
Deny you.

Finger the soft places,
Word souls,

They keep hidden
From the world

That only
Sleep can prise

Open.
Barricade your door

With books
Heavy as bricks.

Remember: always
Protect yourself.

*

Believe you are special.
You are the one

Of a kind
The world needs

To hear about.
You have a

Well inside
Deep and echoing

As a tragedy.
You see violence

Others cannot see
But do not see

Yourself
Or paranoia.

Rather, you are
Diabolical,

The messiah
Who will reveal

The world
Rooted in the

Primitive pain of
Your own image.

Maria Takolander is a Lecturer in Literary Studies and Professional and Creative Writing at Deakin University in Geelong. Her poems have appeared in numerous national and international publications, including The Age, Australian Literary Review, Australian Book Review, Meanjin, Antipodes, Agenda, The Best Australian Poems and The Best Australian Poetry. She is the author of the chapbook of poems, Narcissism (Whitmore Press, Geelong.) A full-length collection of poems, Ghostly Subjects, is forthcoming with Salt Publishing (Cambridge.) <maria.takolander@deakin.edu.au>

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