City Set

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[each page of "city set" is affixed to a thick, black, rectangular board, which doubles as a percussion instrument. The performer, dressed in black, is spotlit from behind, back to the audience. The set may also be accompanied by alto or soprano sax improvisation and/or a dancer silhouetted behind a scrim. The dance should incorporate stiff rectangles framing sheets of paper that can be quickly torn away and crumpled. Asterisks indicate variable length pauses, to be determined improvisatorily]  

WELCOME—  
section of black rubber stitched with shiny two-toned brown shreds of plastic—  
like bits of audio tape, like dead cartoon grass?  
*  
diamond-tipped needle pushing up onto red-spinning center—  
at the end of sound,  
dropping back into the static grove,  
over and over...  
*  
tide drained  
*  
when we used to have records  
*  

"Go here":  

wind in dead palm fronds
"rattling"
no more needles
just pinch the skin

neon signifying "Paradise"—
out there out there—
Attn.:—
gas burning soprano wilderness—
ripwake of bullet—
"Love"
winds whipped thought scraps.
In here, your words screw wall to wall—
night speeding E-motion,
breaking at tranquilized plazas of monotony;
miniature synchronized explosions,
warning warning warning,
recursive sequences,
missed signs.
a you turn...

strip down ice tea on the
i (ce)scream fiireescape
televised love illumination
nights?

sweating emanations in celestial gridlock
up here up here
we real climate control
our voices permute through
various stages of post-recognition,
vibrate in
ideal air

sleepers molded into sleepers

sky lids

Horn man lay out!

"Half-real

We blow the sentence pure and real"

ghost rattle radiators
money card banking full of neon and begging
in mid July freeze
derop out of digital transmission space
just look OUT
thermo-sealed image screens—
the urban hyperreal:
steel rims and rain
asphalt trucking concrete barriers
rot stink and tarspit sidewalks:
tall buildings which leap ambulance flash
Supers roaming streets
eating tongue in basements;  
Families hung alive between walls  
according to contract.  
tier on tier fronting corridors  
of cry shop beg rusheat  
sleep curse shit kisswander  
strollbaby mug make a deal  
sex watch color coordinate appointments  
pisspants poverty buy buy buy scream'n  
die plentitude and fix toilets?  
Egghhh..! [percussion] AAhhho0o...!  
Arrroooo...! AAhhho0o...!  

*  
so, can we meet sometime for coffee?  

**  
[scat]  
I see  
ghosted pen and writing pad in public  
window—  
everything out there  
walking planted speeding rubber locked  
to signs crawling reeling  
through chest head notebook  
kneepoised; someone, or you, blond hair  
knotdrawn, gazing through her(your)elves—  
my eye faint bull’s-eye  
superimposed on mimosa  
body, irongrated...  

substantial bodies, we could touch;  
scribbling through  
equidistant reflections.  
sun flare  
in upper window.  
slow tidal shift  
of glass between panes,  
sleight of eye.  

It’s a matter of resonance,  
distinctions.  
say Savannah—  
built on the dental edge  
of Manhattan:  
some trees shadow play on  
sidewalks after rain;  
long legs diaphanous skirt lick  
super model tan tone  
Samannah—  
magnolia breeze  
sleep pace  
marsh freeway...  
Mansattan:  
lost muttering into his beard,  
secondhand Alligator,  
passing below my window seat,  
sinks into shade saddened sidewalks...
winter evening.
it comes wrapped in paper.
my eye swims...
in the street,
a man zips candlelight into his coat.

Somewhere
whirlpools of jazz fingerings of steam
behind glass.
Blend
cigarette butts, crumpled bags, an elbow,
black tar of sputum, holey sole
knuckles of excrement.

To get out, got to...

buildings etched out of sky
blonde hair blowing in wind, street in shade
puzzle piece of dark brick facade
city’s not safe—
architectural negative.

streets alive
with the speeding differential of dreams.

heads packets of illusion and perceptions—

**

Fish Special

crisscrossings interchanges exchanges ageographical “cyberbia” and memorylanes undivided.

Insights—in and out—thought lines—interstatements—verbal and visual networks mergings

**
go:
scrawls, black reach ciphers
through shadow of a head, a hand, writing through
a possible identity.

pigeon following pigeon tracking
unpredictable figures on asphalt

Look up:
gold ring
glints between delivery carts...
take one, take one!
bright green flyers...
big “day-glo” magenta
film can on sandwich board...
snap a picture through display window—
cashier adjusting cap; reflections.
sirens in the wind.

And ahoy:
river lovers
leaning against railing
hug kiss caress a mix
Lavazzi

of vowels, wind scattered;
twist and shift in each other’s arms;
brown chest rhyming chocolate legs—
June dusk choreography.

* across the river
sun setting
behind condominiums
in a halo of flame.

* heyhiok!

[scat]
ginger river
wake walk
rail slide ride
hey tide!
ball park run shorts
blanket grass dog whistle
wine high cinder laughter—watch...
here no let me...
grip figure notes
gnat flit
lost a spoon,
or tooon,
and dusk reading scat fish
through screen-less bright light
over there...
floating houses lock out.

City Set

kiss the asphalt.
those your blade feet
yeaaah!
ducks eat bagels.
leafy sky
spice you.

* Horn man lay out.

“That’s what we’re trying to tell’em,
man,
There aren’t any angels except when
You and me blow’em.”

* pigeons flock
to an old man
with a bagful of crumbs
paradise needles.
no fronds fall.

HOME