

dreamtime horizon

Poetry by
Christopher William Purdom
Volume VI



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15. Misinterpretations

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Customized Rope

phrasing resonates
your unbound pride tall
alert continents
stride braid initials
burned pressed up in full
control before one
fray and one all thought
behind each twisted
thread deliberate
to subobjective

Recent Past Prepositions Rapidly Receding

free range paranoia flares
from frontal lobe twin suns no
expired flu medicine
or February's frigid
gusts can extinguish I need
to challenge muted courtyards
in orange-red throes of nightfall

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face out to draw

utter foreign word for boots
re: in force stepping device
supported on two stocking
profile New York personage
would be vanishing mother
browns or scattered sleeves puffy
white what do they whisper you?

Chester Split Screen

On Seaport Drive the piles home
waits failed expectation
cue the four leaf clover song
knitted cable riverscape
soft constructed aftermath
million second deglassed eyes
to spread sheet estimation

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Aspect Ratio

My days are measured in raw
fish sweater bounce choir walk
Korean conversation
gape is held inventory
flirting interview advice
promises wide open keep
the pathologic oral

1996 to 2009

You lead a different way back
brick sidewalks unevenly
steep and day long damp spoken
with quiet authority
privileged attractions called out
from the vestment closet named
for justice make light the air

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Forty-five midnight

Cron illogical
midspan suspension
My own outstripped left
behind legacy
of nervous decay
Fourteen days since your
grandmother message
Congratulations
Sprint delivers text
Inconsistently

Where in camouflage

combat pregnancy
hunts traps attention
parent to the new
messiah robot
magi nation climb
on up not mine am
uncomplexed ready
for rolling keep them
close closer closing
eyes twice wildersleep

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implausibly titled

some simply will you day tell
me idea wrong this what is
that to want wouldn't you give
in will I meantime the guess
while with stroll you watching quick
haste up languid or by and
stand just hips in front of me

front to back

laying on of shoulder blade
recept commissioned body
corporate impulse personal
inflects but pliant distract
spine impressed by hefting bless
pronounce annunciation
alternate comingleness

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Twenty-Five Silent

audio sniper
birds reverberate
white lined numberless
postal asphalt Four
July alarm songs

situational gravity

riotous growth after June
of rain time-space forms earth-bound
droplets celebratory
escape from the mall-entombed
culvert to road-side jungle
plant reunification
ends and means invisible

16. San Francisco

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shoestring

first flight for five years without
the wing beneath mountains are
Rockies or careless plate shift
result steward will collect
no blanket coming no head
to rest but neck inclined in
homage runway gentle touch

Searching for the Haight

South fixated East depart
Golden Gate Park hippie not
with standing on grass believed
ignored certain round the bend
Pacific overtaken
word ceding seeding anger
Greek eighties food trip shaded

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Italian Design Sensibility

orange Milanese trolley flows
by palm trees in the Castro
interior polished wood
two long benches for short folk
seats near the front reserved for
invalids of war and those
mutilated on the job

Ocean Beach

palegreen fog black birds wetsuit
surfer skimming continent
end waves gold dog stranger barks
friendly non-recognition
familiarity nose
conversation human pads
soft sand continuity

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Return to Japantown with Rachel

"How can you not be joyful
about sushi in little
boats?" It seemed larger last time
and brighter lit less techno
pop with paper lanterns but
so did the whole world then
before the genome projects

Path

the wind like Texas
is constant colors
too subtle to name
but biting damp turned
vertical no flat
survives the rock made
cliff made pelican
by bay and ocean
iconic bridge fades
to Sausalito

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headed home

elbows resting on the rail
I listen to the sotto
voce swim below through rain
forest waters then above
me as I sit in the clear
plastic tunnel everyone
I have ever dared to love

fishbowl met

Godhewn stones replaced
to manmade dormant
bed short-sleeved awhite
faith-works debate cry
out no more back step
birthday helium
balloon on ceiling
paralysis wait
blaring curb-hugging
contemplated trucks

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Recreational tourists

late-summer garage smell rests
thick on the ground childhood
visits to people who lived
car to driveway face to road
slow-melting rubber drizzled
with crude door raised enough roll
under and hide like a man

Talking cross

outside's thin skinned storm runs hunched
riddled blue scarred by near-set
slashes in concrete stairwells
stop full fast beforehand on
third floor exit hunger does
not lack for reasons gracious
always a pleasure to height

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askness bubbles

hound stares fox in corduroy
jacket nine televisions
viewing soundless Thierry
Henry's anti-Ireland slap
assist Amtrak Manhattan
flattened from misname sakes you
radiate island ponies

After preaching Gunn and Mac Low

Reclined in the study before dawn this December, Skye rumbled proudly on my belly, anticipating lunch in January and the intersection of self-imposed deadlines, expectation, and behavior, my most persistent image from 2009 is of the gap in the dunes from the Pacific to the N-line terminus loop.

