

Blaze VOX 2k9

Late Spring 2009

Mark Cunningham

Phantom

[specimen]

When I asked why his description of the banana didn't point out the peel was yellow, he said, "Because you can *see* that." We were in a slowness race to see whether we would free ourselves or whether capitalism would implode for good. When I saw the booger had disappeared from the end of my finger, yet wasn't on the Kleenex, I hesitated before approaching the cashier. Adjust this, adjust that: most scales can't weigh zero accurately. The doctor said I wasn't feeling *real* phantom limb pain.

[specimen]

It was a federal sanctuary, so no one was allowed to mess with the ducks or the scraps of plastic that blew in from the interstate. The water is always bluer in the toilet across the fence. I looked myself straight in the eye in the mirror, though, of course, it was the wrong eye. The physicist claimed he was a materialist, too, but he refused to believe the black hole was only an ink smudge on the star chart.

[specimen]

I'm a performance artist in the my 34th year of performing *Things to Do Instead of Writing a Duet for Flute and Bulldozer*, yet when I mention this people still hear it. It's one of nature's most beautiful sounds: the great outdoors. Sometimes a light bulb just makes a noise. Meat products shouldn't snap. The suggestion to scream until we'd deafened ourselves so we couldn't hear the rustling wasn't considered empowering. I look like I'm standing here doing nothing, but really I'm calling your name in my head, quietly.

[specimen]

I would apologize for tripping over him and knocking off his left leg, but the leg was artificial and I wouldn't have really meant it, anyway. There are starving children in Africa who would be glad to have been hit in the face with that pie. Eating Dirt Could Actually Be Good for Babies. Maybe God's lightning did create the dust, but it still smells burnt to me. Their ham acting was so atrocious we finally just stopped stabbing them.