

IMPOSTURE NOTEBOOK

Lance Phillips

BlazeVOX [books]

Buffalo, New York

In memory of my father, Kenneth Geary.

This is a difficult book to read, physically to read.

It incorporates my father's re-entry into my life after a 25 year absence, including about 8 years during which I thought he was dead. That said he doesn't actually die in the space of this book, though he did die in early 2007 (a loss I feel as a constant companion). Of course I realize this isn't easily gleaned from the book. The fact is that my grandfather did die in the space of this book (i.e. the feeling his ribs, t-shirt etc, birds from the neighbors yards and the rest).

Undoubtedly a number of typographical errors, grammatical errors and errors of spelling (as well as, perhaps, any number of other errors) will be noticed. You know, I've thought long and hard about them since I put this book together a number of years ago. The fact is it is what is. My correspondence and notebooks are rife with such indiscretions. In many contexts these kinds of things should be corrected, but in this case the authentic feels right. This is a deeply flawed text and experiment, to try to make it into anything else would be dishonest.

area 1: The rational violence

notebook, durus: working books 4/01/01 thru 6/01/02

notebook, mollis: correspondence (truncated) 5/08/01 thru 3/27/02

This all began with a letter not received.

Traversed the grass beaded assumes various forms Beaded branch Open

This is not a true reply to your letter, though I (we for that matter) do intend to give a true

language thins to an arm Ordinary Quality her finger moves over her skin distorting

reply. This is simply to let you know that I did not receive a copy, though _____ read

her skin The earth Is distorted itself with these leaves on it These leaves "Our

his copy to me so I know you intended that I should receive a copy. It may have been

psychological perspective is determined by the following: 1) that communication is

lost or who knows what. If you could send a copy to me I would greatly appreciate it.

necessary, and that for there to be communication something has to be firm, simplified,

Also, I think you should know that I am not angry, but I am confused.

capable of precision. For it to be communicable, however, it must be experience

I realized after I had sent the previous email that it was rather pointless to ask for a copy

as adapted, as 'recognizable.' The material of the senses adapted by the understanding,

of the letter. I don't need a copy in order to respond (_____ read it to me over the

reduced to rough outlines, made similar, subsumed under related matters. Thus the

phone.) I hesitate to use email simply because I dislike it for serious correspondence, but

fuzziness and chaos of sense impressions are, as it were, logicized.” (Nietzsche) An
it is fast. It is important to preface everything which follows by saying a couple of
honest community versus a true community What is ordinary language? One thinks of
things: first, as I stated before, I’m confuse and second, as I stated before, I’m not angry.
Williams or Wittgenstein What about Hejinian’s My Life? Is it ordinary Language that
I suppose I should try to explain why I am not angry. When I asked _____ why the
is the language of communication? Pedestrian communication? No A context which
two of you divorced she said it was because you are gay. At that point, suddenly, it
defies context Real language which has been put into an unusual situation Real versus
seemed to me that the divorce and your staying away was your way of protecting us from
ordinary? Into his thigh community has been sewn each stitch buckled and some where
something which is difficult to explain. I thought then, and do now, that that must have
hairs “We must begin with the mistake and transform it into what is true.”
best course of action. By telling you this, though, I am not trying to make you less
(Wittgenstein) *What I can see and what I can set down and what I can remember Is*
culpable for your choices; there were also some selfish and irresponsible motives behind
memory separate from soul Syntax is a way of making memory present palpable
them. I am not naïve enough to assume it was better this way and there is no point in
Knowing my body as I do your body is separate from the dog’s Slant the sun golden is
speculating. You said in your letter that you wanted to be honest, as do I. I think at this
a quality in human skin Eumenidies Mastery of death? Mimesis? _____: “what is it
point there can be no other way to be and still hope to proceed. I do want to ask you two,

about tone that you dislike?" I dislike the way it makes a spectacle of the writing as
for now, questions: first, what's your side of the story, second, why now? I can think of
does Narrative and description What is it about Drama which attracts people in a piece
other questions, but for the time being I think we need slowly to begin establishing a
of writing which is not theater? This can easily return to people's need for God That is
history before we can start trying to fill it in. You stated that you also have questions, I'll
this muddle of language which requires so many circuits to (illegible) often accepts
history before we can start trying to fill it in. You stated that you also have questions, I'll
metaphor as veracity Whereas in a writing which is closer to thinking there is little need
be glad to answer them honestly, though slowly this is a difficult thing which requires
of circuits Heaven location description versus the Hebrew word for heaven being
time, care and respect.

plural the idea of plurality alone one after death existing as a true plurality
I spoke with _____ and we both agree that for you to send each of us a letter would be
The soul is an action Is it assumes with spinneret egg sack abdomen drama
best now that you have both of our addresses. By both of us getting a letter, even which
attachment moon hauled on leg points Dissolves on touch the caterpillar One third the
contains the same information, we will be able to react individually. Also, I want to
petals russet with skin He wrote it as separate from his lungs Mandelstam's
stress that any dialogue, aside from the transmission of facts, which is to take place
"Conversation about Dante." In the way their lips slide one to one There's a way in

between you and I and between you and _____ must take place individually. Many of
which people can blur over the boundaries and make soul The two of you have a strong
the concerns which this dialogue involves are mutual, but many more are extremely
soul which I hope you'll have always Saying something versus making something
individual. It seems that _____ initial questions echo mine: What happened? and
happen Blackberry blossoms at night Is the perception of oneself mythology? That
Why now? If you have any questions feel free to contact me, but I will not relay
would make consciousness a micro-mythology? Crisis occurs when that micro-
information, again, aside from facts, between you and _____ that will be up to the two
mythological template is laid across others Their myths are different I can think of
of you. I can't and won't assume to speak for _____, but I for one look forward to
things which I did today for good or no and now I can think of alternatives to those
reading your letter.

previous actions How does this affect those perceptions? Is that "actual"

I received your letter yesterday and want to thank you for being so prompt. I told you in
micro-mythology altered? Of course actual refers to its being on the outside and able to
a previous email that I thought it best to communicate by letter, I still do, the reason I am
be corroborated This is memory a micro-mythology This what it is that attracts
sending this email is that I couldn't read you return address on the envelope. I guess I
people to drama that it mimics the creation of these micro-mythologies What happens
got my habit of writing letters quickly from you. Also, I want to thank you for being so

when belief is withdrawn from self? Prime mover is it still? World as ecstatic No
honest, I know this can not be easy for you. Most of the information you gave I knew to
center Death greatest spectacle yields sex yields the self being subsumed Released
some extent, except for the _____. This is
from spectacle So when I think of tone etc. as making a spectacle out of the writing am I
something _____ was not honest about. When I asked why the divorce happened,
simply reacting to the death instinct? What happens if everything is equally a prime
and this was 7 or 8 years ago, I simply told that you were gay. Over the years I've
mover? Cause and effect would be replaced by action and re-action? Hierarchy is
gleaned information from here and there and
dismantled? Unity is replaced with process? This is Love The leaves shadowed are
_____. I
more and darker leaves If one is able to emphasize the boundaries of things (ideas and
want to ask you some other questions. But I also want you to know that anything you
objects) one is dispelling unity Does soul still remain after excending those boundaries?
choose not to answer is fine with me and that my wanting to pursue a relationship with
Yes because it is action Why is this not spectacle? Is it excending versus transcending
you is not contingent on either your answering or your answers. I guess I'll ask the hard
only? To climb out of versus to carry across Fuscia rhododendron blooms at night
one first: did you know you were gay when you married _____? I also have loads
Culpability

of other questions along an entirely different line: your life. I want to be as honest with

Photography

you as you have with me. You stated in your letter that I apparently had tried to find you

How can one question value without establishing a new system of value Is something

through the _____ side; the fact is I didn't, though I had thought about doing so.

which is beyond value by definition beyond spectacle Can one redefine value (or

_____ may have tried though I don't know for sure. This doesn't mean I'm sorry

remove it for that matter) by requiring that it be exceeding rather than transcending I

that you have contacted me; I am, in fact, very happy. I don't know what kind of

suppose here I'm back to Nietzsche But would this require abstaining from belief as

relationship you have in mind. I'd like to share some things about my life with you but I

belief itself is what establishes value Is belief not opposed to intimacy in that it requires

don't want you to feel overwhelmed. I don't know what I expect but I do want to try to

only a passive action Here is the problem with tone which exemplifies the problem with

understand you in some way and I'd like you to feel the same. Just let me know you

spectacle as a whole They require a system of belief which bars certain contingencies

have in mind or if you don't know either maybe we can simply keep writing and see

while setting in place other expected outcomes Value yields spectacle yields tone Is

what happens. I'll try to answer any questions you may have about me and my life.

only supported by belief I believe intimately in the immediate structures of the world—

_____ tells me that your return address is easily read. So, I now have your true

the give of flesh the lack thereof in stone or wood The point at which I become a
address, but I'll send the email anyway.

skeptic is when the creation of so many micro-mythologies lays a completely

Each time I sit down to write you I can tell the focus of my attention is moving from
artificial template over those structures and is not aware of it Things are not to be

wanting to ask you questions toward wanting to tell you things. I think this is good,
doubted for that matter neither are perceptions alone but perceptions in conjunction

although I can't get over what a strange and rare opportunity this is for the both of us.
with a self are to be held if not in a dubious light then at least accepted as fodder for true

Here we are at the cusp of, what I hope will be, an enduring and mutually rewarding
thinking and experimenting If one is blind to the porous nature of self one is likely to be

relationship. Each of us has here the opportunity to create a self for the other, of course
either deceived by its capacity for tyranny and thus become a tyrant or to become a

by that I do not mean an invention but a presentation of who each of us thinks we are,
victim of another's tyranny Study of the positions of the body Dante Beckett

which is why I so value the honesty which your letters from the first have strove to
Resound hands move Photo graphism Actaeon yields study yields Beckett yields body

require. I want us to always be honest. What you said about whether you knew you
position Actaeon yields study yields Dante yields body as the surface or capital for

were gay when you married _____ makes a great deal of sense. It is amazing how
punishment Paz on Duchamp Zukofsky 80 flowers Bottom on Shakespeare Aristotle

long a culture can ignore or deny something only to turn around and the in space of 3
on the soul Olson's notion: "I've lived so long with my body that it must be my soul"
decades almost completely assimilate it. You said you didn't want the last letter to be
Dante manifests punishment as physical pain so does in his case the body either: 1)
about you. But I do, I want to know things about you: your childhood, which you
usurp the soul or 2) become the soul Beckett also uses the body as a surface or a
mentioned, your life until now, and now, what you do, what/how you think about things,
barrier against which the world reacts for in him the world is always only outside Is it
everything. I, too, don't want you to feel I'm asking too much too soon, but still I wonder.
always only outside Is it possible for the body to be a surface which is the result of a
I guess now for me, to begin I don't mind answering any questions you have for me (
tension or better a being made tense or being strung that is an elongation of the inner
although I'm not too interested in writing about _____, I'll tell you they
and the outer so that both are manifest completely in the surface which is body So that
are still together and seem happy, they live nearby and I see them often.) I'll start with
the body changes from being a barrier to being a ground of inclusion Does this require
the questions you enclosed. Yes, we were in New Castle until 1984 when we moved to
dis-belief in the self And how honest is that or can it be How does this jibe with unity
Charlotte, NC where I've lived since, except for two years of graduate school. In school,
If each body is a ground of inclusion in the afore mentioned sense can there be
at least, elementary and high school, I'd say I was average maybe slightly above. I
distinction And can that surface stretched as it is produce Is there volition in such a