

Poetic Imprints: Responses to the Art of Duane Locke

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&
Constance Stadler

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By Felino A. Soriano & Constance Stadler

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B l a z e V O X

Foreword

The poems in this compilation are first and foremost the responses of two poets to the artistry of Duane Locke.

One of the premiere poets and artists of this and any age, Duane Locke has published almost 7,000 poems in print journals and e-zines and is the author of 21 books of verse. He has been anthologized over a dozen times and is the recipient of many of the highest awards in poetry. He holds a doctorate in English Renaissance Literature and was a Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at the University of Tampa for more than a score of years. A critically acclaimed painter and photographer, Locke has had numerous exhibitions and published over 300 sur-photos, 41 of which are included in this volume

In his discussion of the unprecedented decision of the esteemed journal The Bitter Oleander to devote an entire issue to this one poet Paul Roth writes: "... Duane Locke is the best of all exceptions... [His] body of work is so voluminous that it would easily take lifetimes to put it all into its proper historical and literary perspective."

He is a true living legend.

But to the authors of this volume, he is much, much more:

Felino A. Soriano: After discovering Duane's poetry and philosophical insight within the dedicated spring, 2004 issue of International Literary Journal, *Bitter Oleander*, I consciously inherited hankering to find more of his published works. An easy excavation subsequently occurred through the thousands of his poems found on the internet. On 4/5/06, I sent Duane an e mail, explaining my fondness of his work. Kindly, he responded:

"Felino,

Thanks for the comment.

You must be a poet.

Send me some sample poems.

Duane"

I was then asked to be part of his poetic community, containing many of the finest poets of neoteric times. His kindness matches his extensive intellectual capacity, and he has encouraged my being a poet more than my articulation can attempt to proclaim. My honor in knowing Duane stems from much more beyond his artistic endeavors; he has become my educator and mentor, but much more significantly, friend.

Constance Stadler: I had the privilege of meeting Duane in 2008. Admittedly, I was terrified; I knew the import of this legendary writer. After submitting work to him, he graciously invited me to join his poetic community ~ an invitation for which I will always be indebted. Included in this circle are some of the greatest living poets extant. But at the center is Duane. I remember interviewing him for *Eviscerator Heaven*. What a phenomenal experience that was, how much I discovered about poetry! In an article included in my first chap published in almost twenty years, Duane commented extensively on my work. In discussing stylistic innovation he said, “Connie will not know this but ...” He was quite right. How very, very much I have learned.

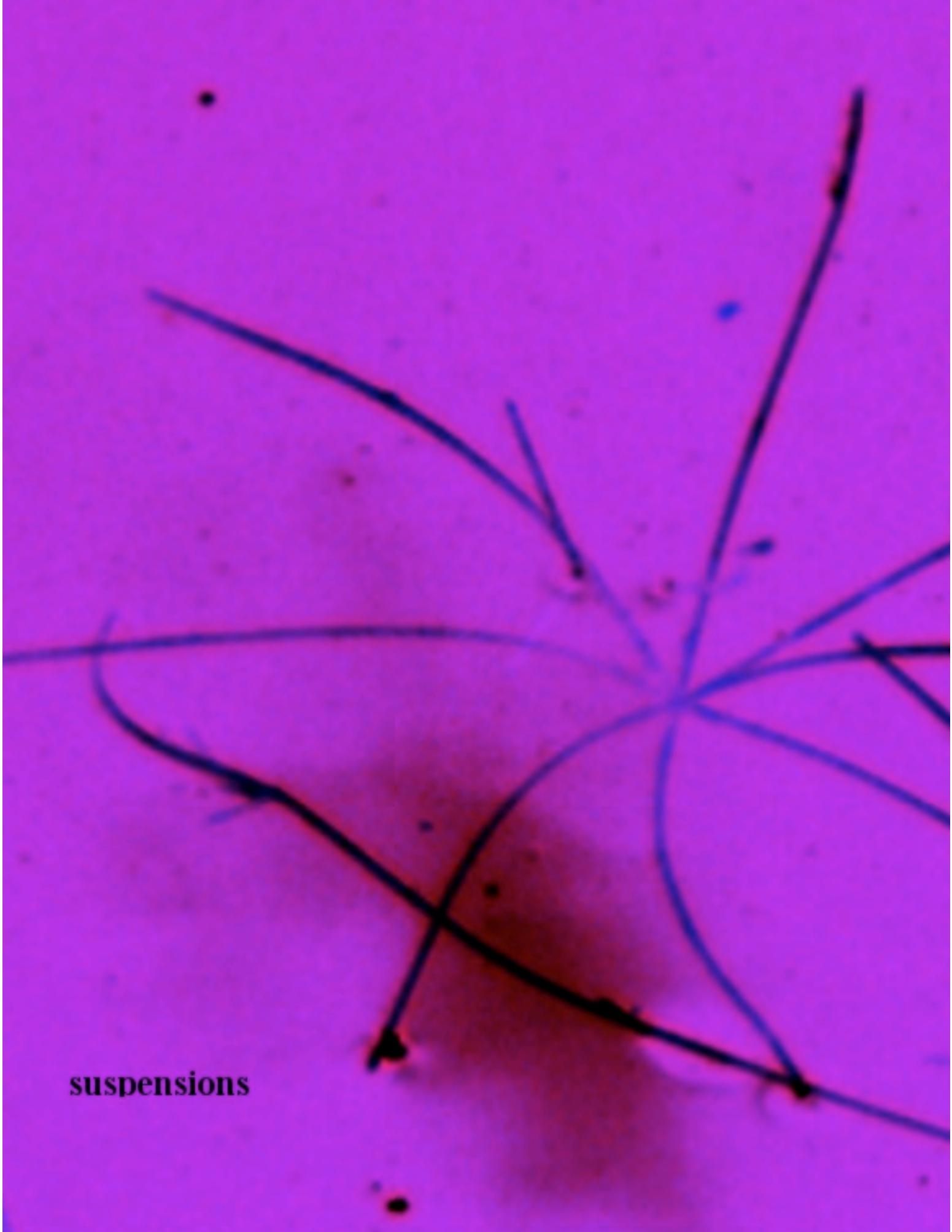
~~~~~

We have each been blessed by the opportunity to know and work with Duane Locke. His inspiration and encouragement have been of inestimable value. Quite simply, he has profoundly impacted our work and each of our lives. This book is dedicated to him as an expression of the deepest gratitude. It is offered in love.



Poetic Imprints:  
Responses to the Art of Duane Locke





A micrograph showing a cell with several long, thin, dark filaments extending from its center towards the edges. The background is a light purple color with some darker spots.

suspensions

CS:

thin  
\*  
wisped

starfish

nestled  
\*  
in amethyst

sea  
\*

dancing

passions  
promise

knowing

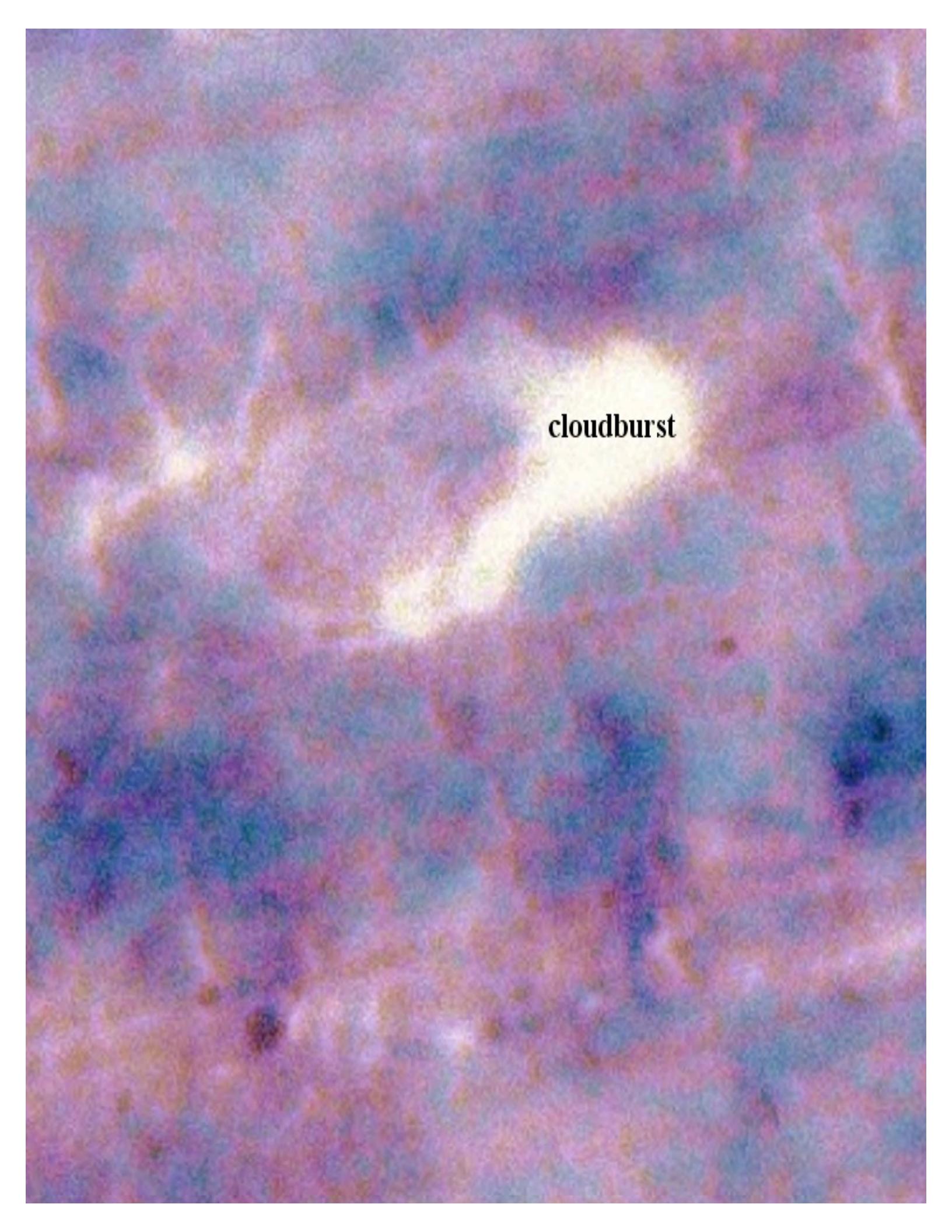
\*

reverie

\*

FAS:

Elements of thrust, handgrown  
of palm's  
circular hold, rewarming glaze  
manifest  
adoration. Dust of dusk  
besprinkled  
near orbital release of sound's  
punctual cone of excretion. Soon  
purple will expose  
exploding focus of noon's  
unretentive post meridiem.

The background of the image is a dense, abstract pattern of swirling colors. It features a central bright yellow/orange area that tapers off towards the edges, surrounded by a ring of pink and purple. This is set against a darker, mottled background of blues, purples, and hints of orange and yellow.

**cloudburst**

CS:

## dragonfly wings

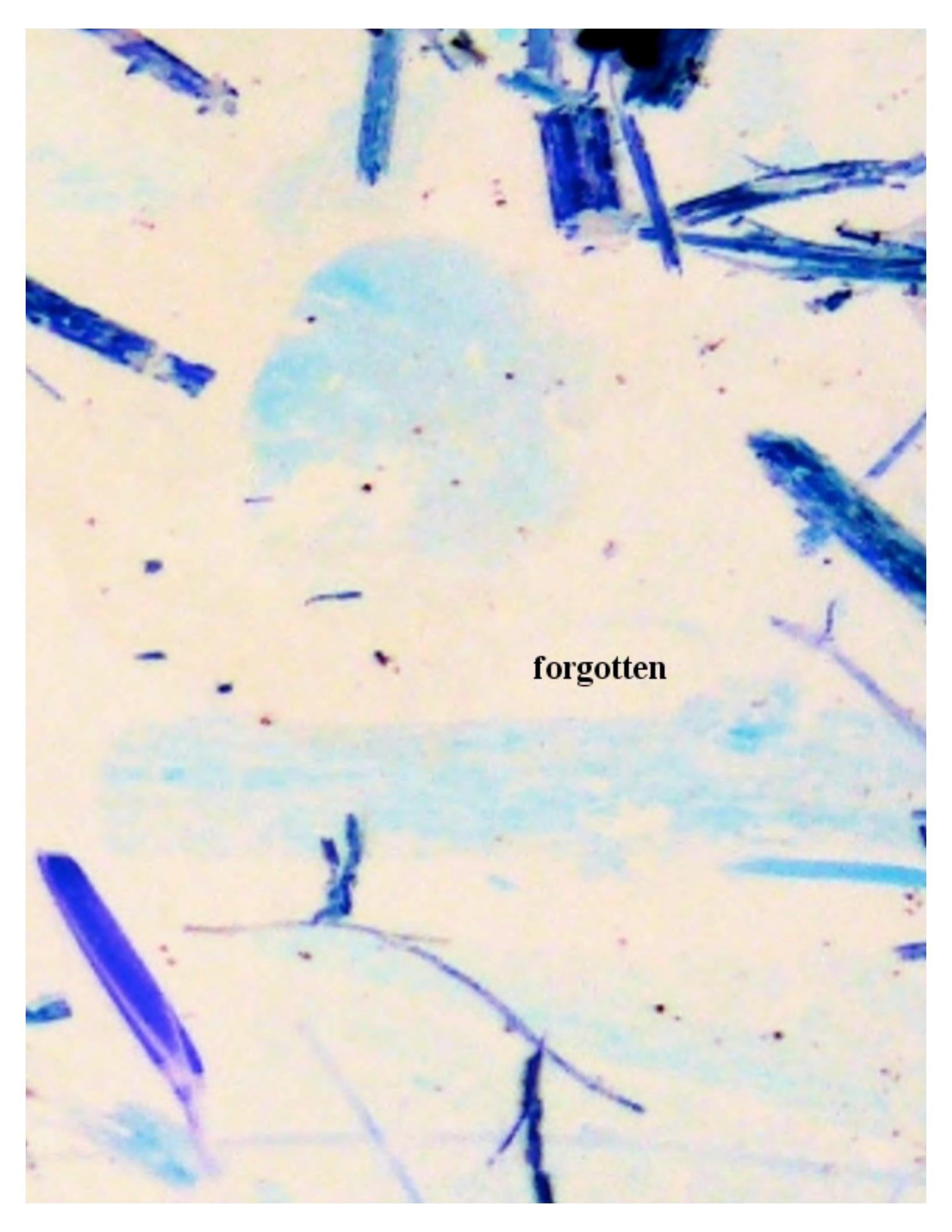
## alabaster ascension

eager mate follows

cumulus and wild

breathing threads of light

FAS:



forgotten

CS:

blue limned

the facets of this empty

speckle

hollows

FAS:

Too

the rudiments of incorporated logic  
    hide

among the scaly skin

denoting fortunate

mirrors

finding renewed facial applications  
    long

below motions of

supinating biography.

**stop light**

CS:

screaming  
at center  
of the inferno

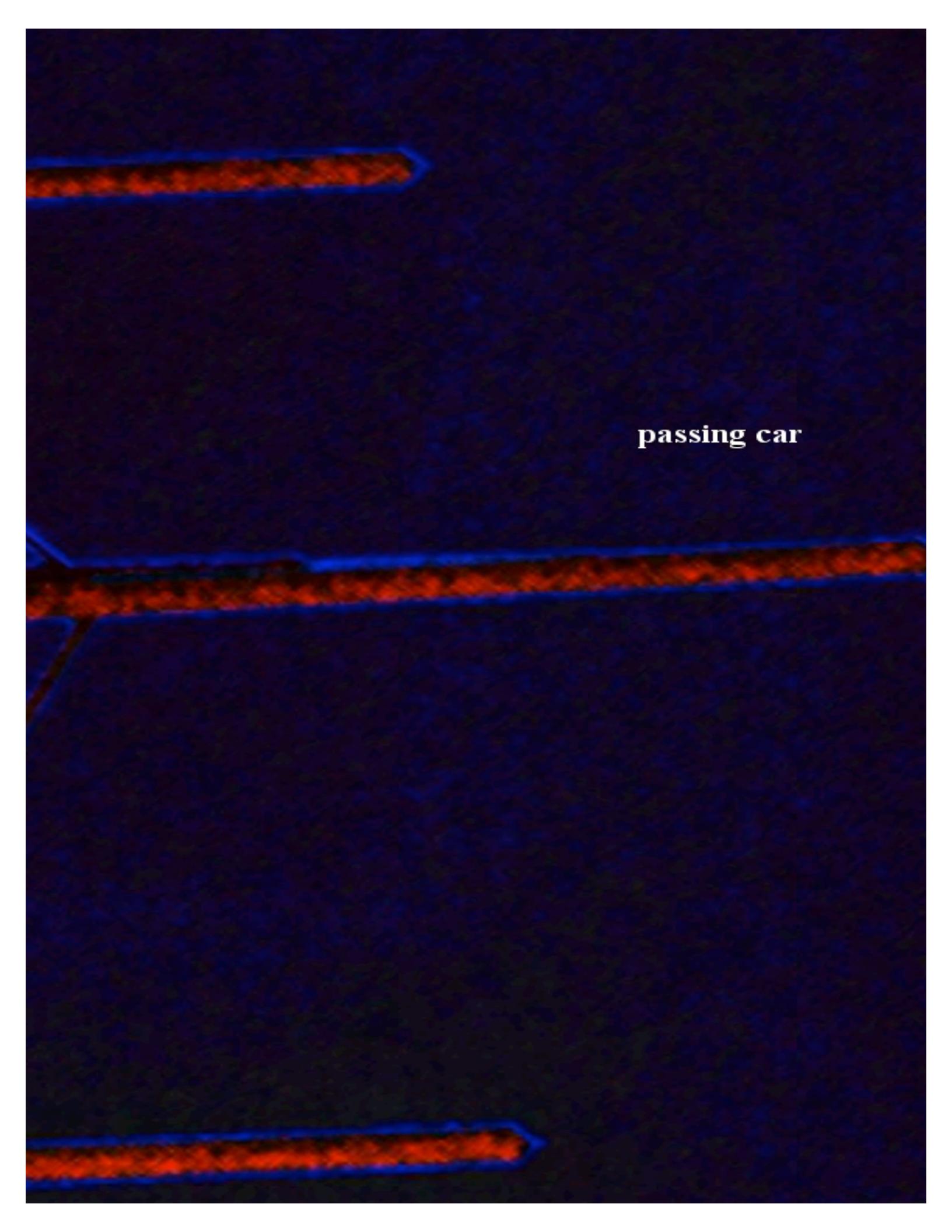
freeze framed

incineration

FAS:

Motional phrasing:

find  
fire stalling light  
near  
hallmark of expediting  
favorable  
fixation (causalational pause).



**passing car**

CS:

rain  
and  
midnight

obscure the highway

wipers scab

neon suggestions

FAS:

Surge, replay

whispered existential  
mayhem

following flowing  
four-wheeled dexterity

noticing

viable monetary compensation

devoid of fraudulent mechanism of time,

hiding near awash version of an hour's serenading

fulcrum.

fragments



Anna-Lise

CS:

silk  
guilt

flagrant

poinsettia

cobalt  
smiles

“Take your hair down”

Paris

shrieks :

*Givenchy*  
madonna

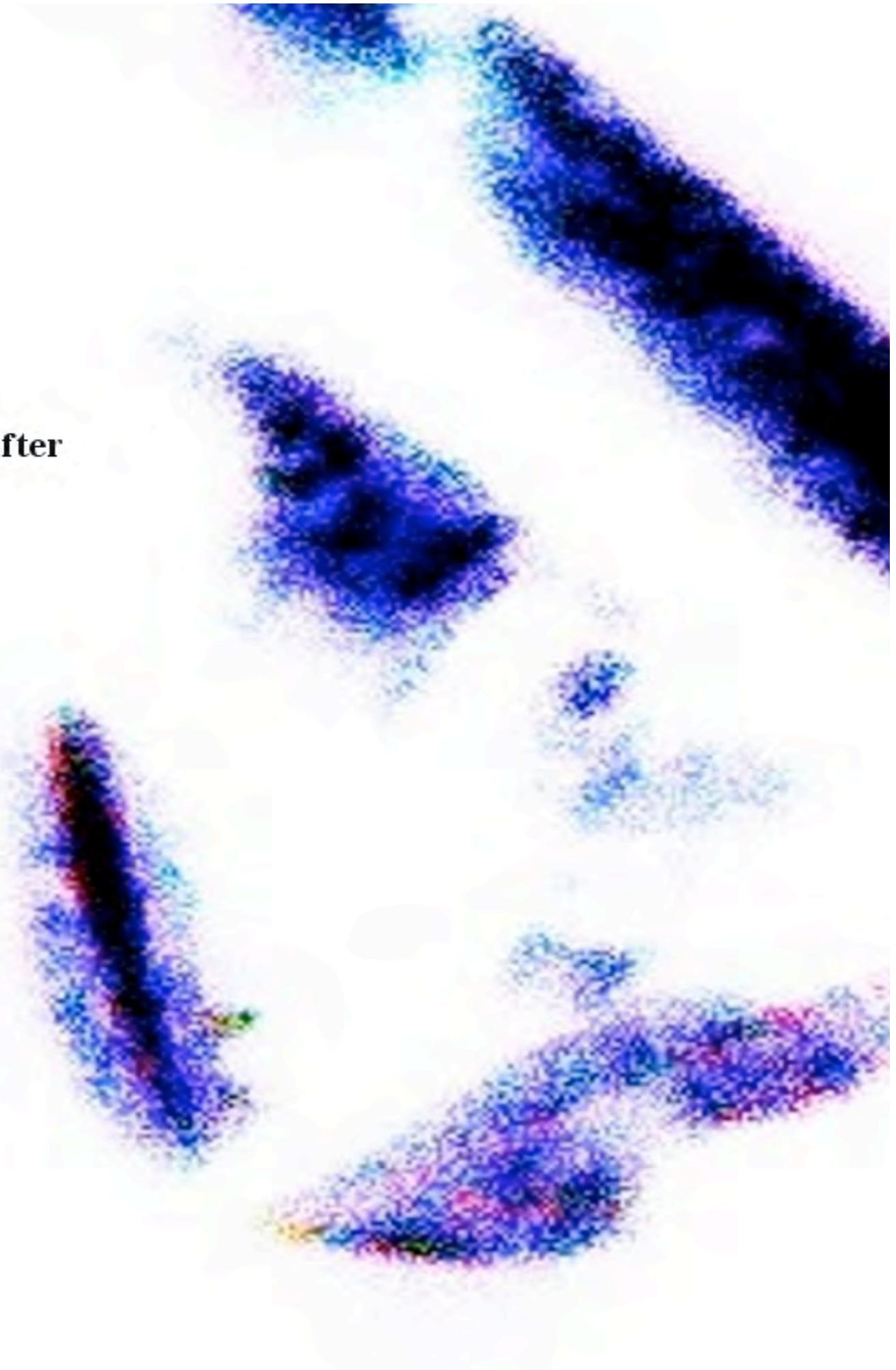
FAS:

Ornamental orbit

burst-splendid reinvention:

earth  
of  
architectural newness  
splaying imagination inward  
protracting function of  
sedentary beauty.

hereafter



CS:

haunted, will

fragments disintegrate

as dream in dawn

a butterfly caress

/leaf floats

refuge denied/ ?

... just

beyond ...

FAS:

Facial imprint

hidden

betwixt (  
symbolizing  
parallelism  
)

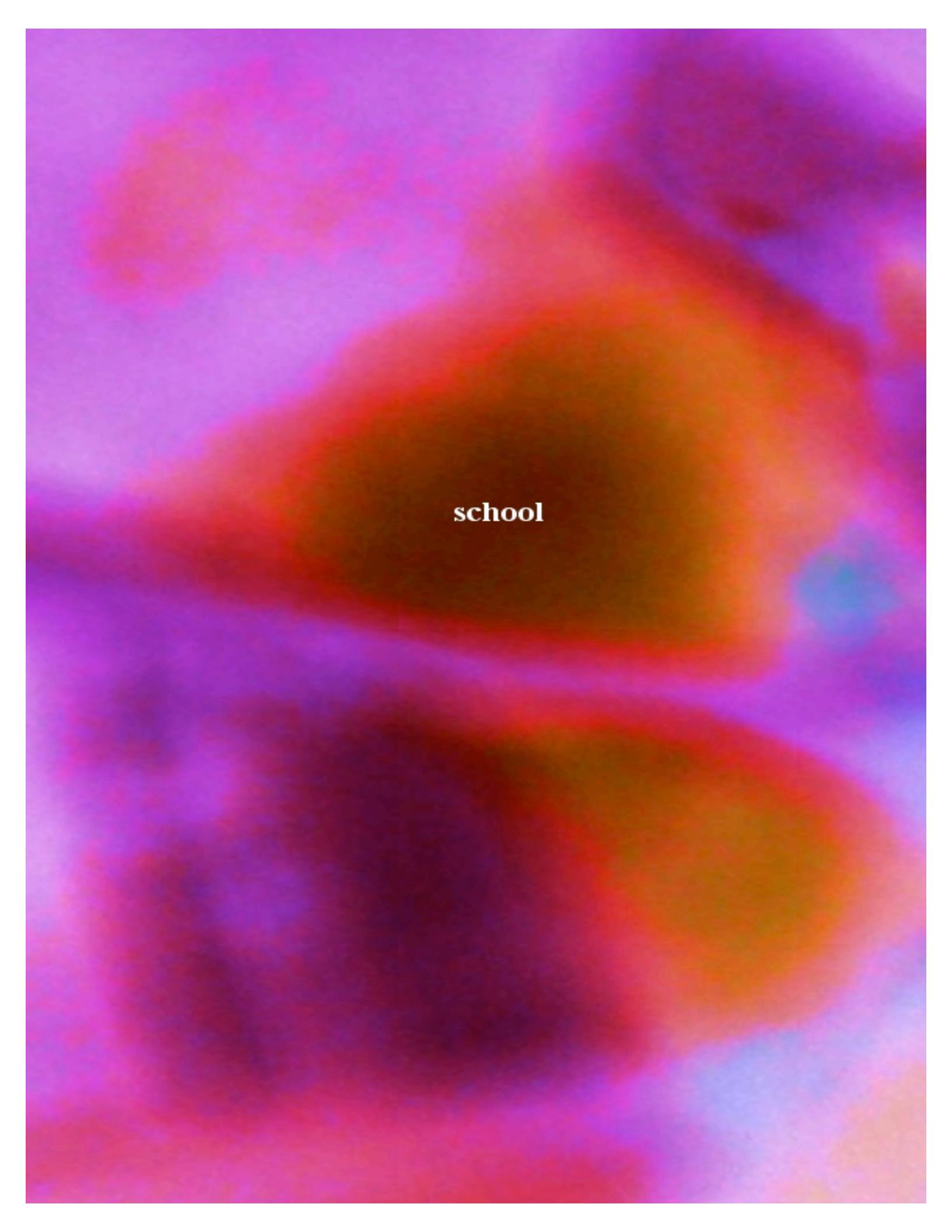
cultural difference, smudge of  
wind's dialectical printed digits.

Pardon

when scent of visual

document

poses as prosodic moment of metaphysical  
paradox.



A vibrant, abstract background featuring swirling patterns of warm colors like orange, red, and yellow, transitioning into cooler tones of purple and blue. The colors are blended together in a soft, organic way, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**school**

CS:

in that depth

seeing through eons

a flotilla of life

appears to irradiated eyes

warm

with open bellies

divining

begins

FAS:

**Learned**

radiant benevolence; sutura

healed

whole

sans intellectual

fathom

gained among apparitional

silence of those willing to antagonize  
such erudition.



cityscape

CS:

move/meant

gleanings

as  
passage

poetic interpretation

as passage

(that)

ants  
c  
r  
o  
s  
faces

FAS:

Eye-virtue:

denial

though

harboring shadow-bounce

off

cornea's recollecting mirror. Center:

city's renown

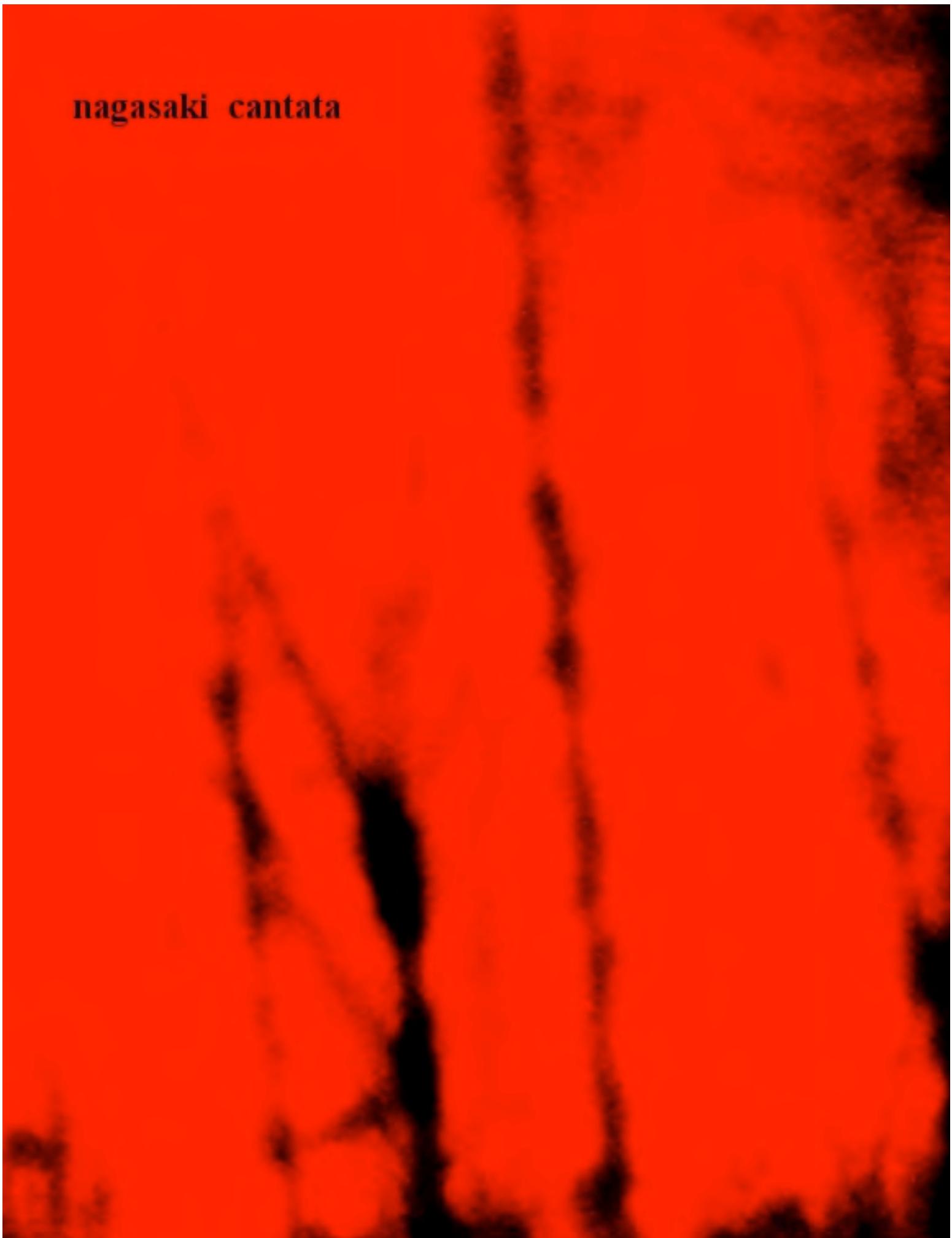
cross-pageantry

highlighted feature

most prevalent upon systematic

scenes of tapestried tableaus.

# nagasaki cantata



CS:

a tree

filled with vermillion  
light

covered this fawn

(*long*  
*pause*)

skeletal memoirs

bleed

how

?

FAS:

Desolate

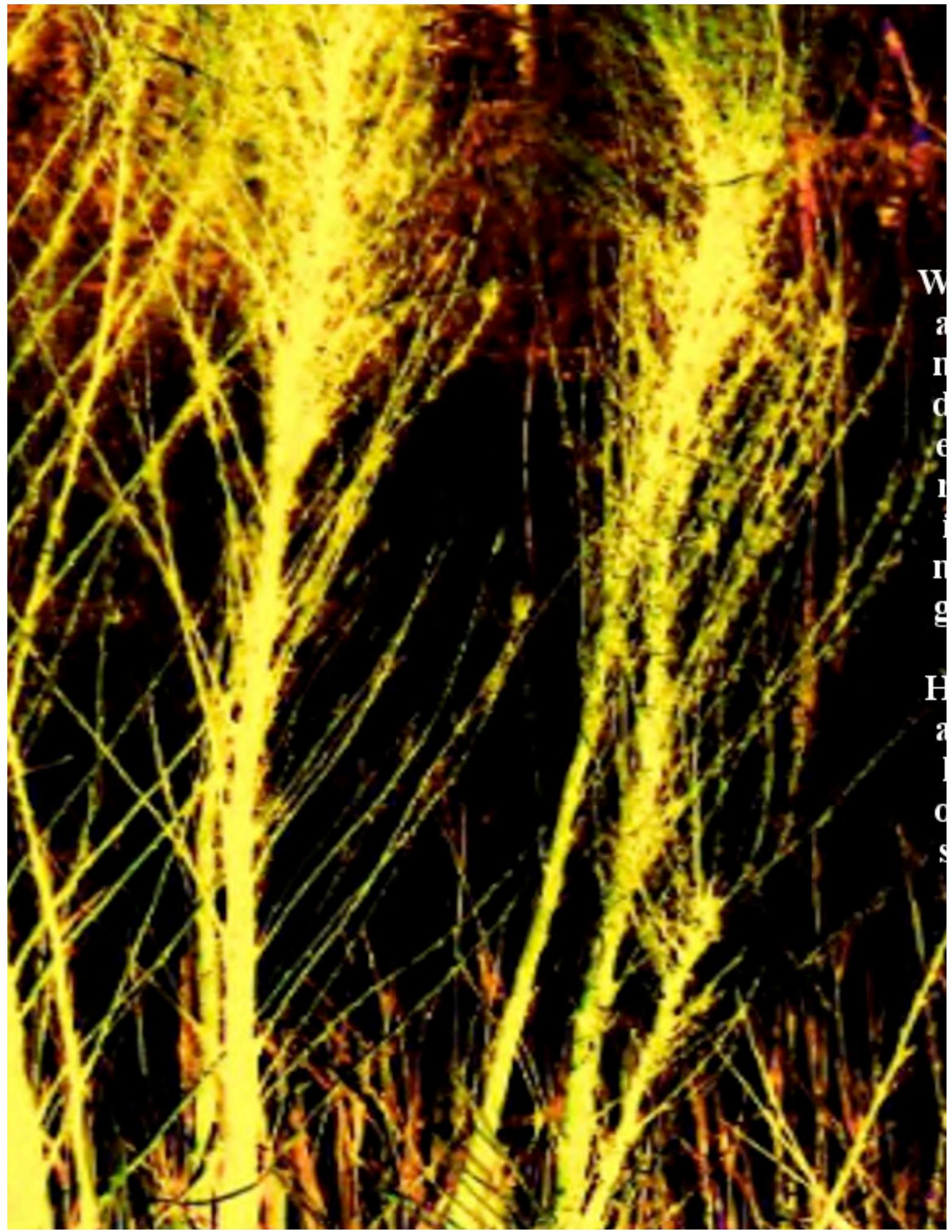
saddened avenue of ocular  
precision. Woe, subjective,

conflagration

annulus

absent to the watchers  
unaware of innate flare of somatic articulation.

W  
a  
n  
d  
e  
n  
i  
n  
g  
H  
a  
l  
o  
s



FAS:

Each horizontal  
mask

worn by noon's excavated  
hands of reaching northern semblance

vacillates

countersection

mention: moon, your  
manducated mask  
    resembles angels of fire

rehabilitating transgressions.

CS:

etched  
glass

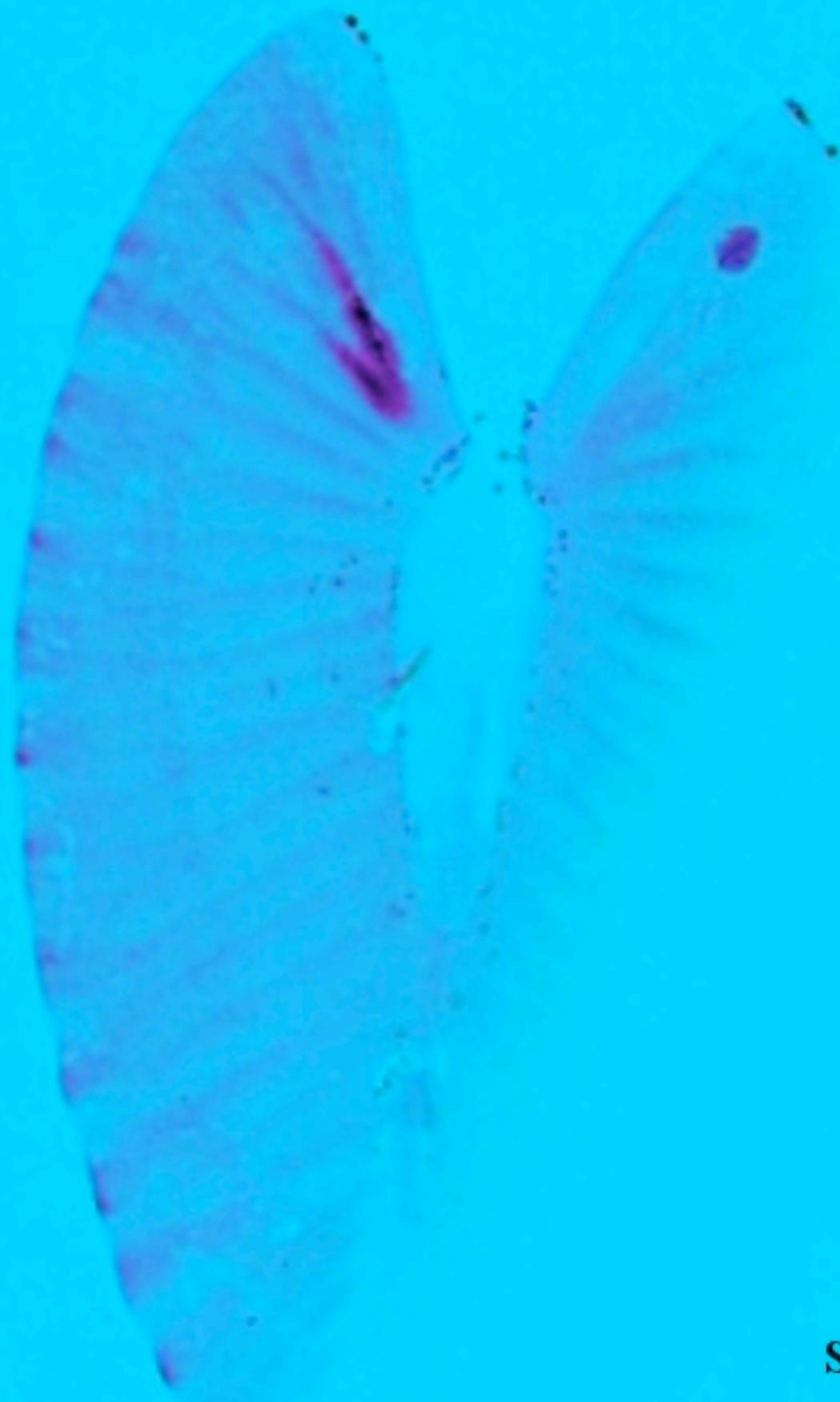
golden

scars

wheatfield  
cathedral

the wind

suggests  
psalm



Sacred

FAS:

Winged  
tissue  
thin, worn

w  
e  
a  
v  
i  
n  
g  
gregarious scarf of air-straight  
punctuation.

Do  
your visions  
resemble  
curtains of wide o p e n  
trust  
delegated  
to roam near callused halls of  
air's evaporated comfort?

CS:

evanescent

whisper ...  
dawn  
... ascends  
again  
and  
she

**Remittent**

FAS:

Fa                    de  
                      volume  
silken                         soil  
dilapidated function,  
truant                resuscitation.

CS:

blue                        flame  
                              cold

in a godless

why

I

spit



Elongated

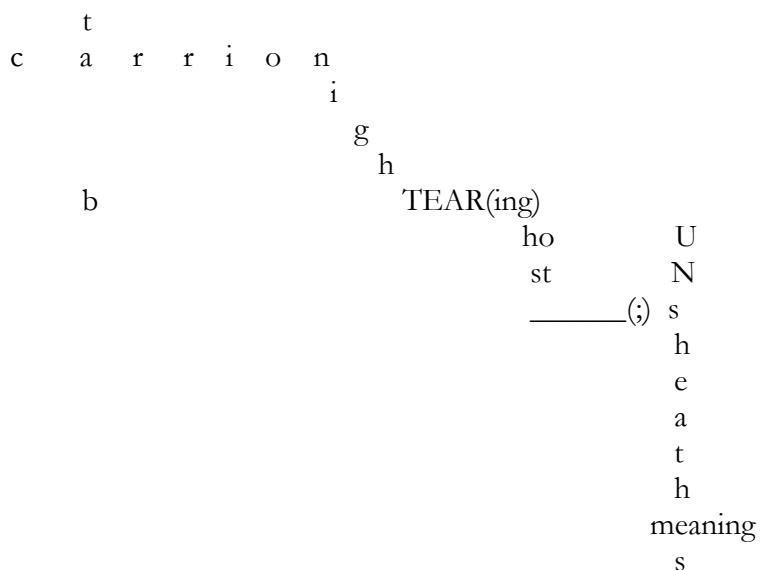
FAS:

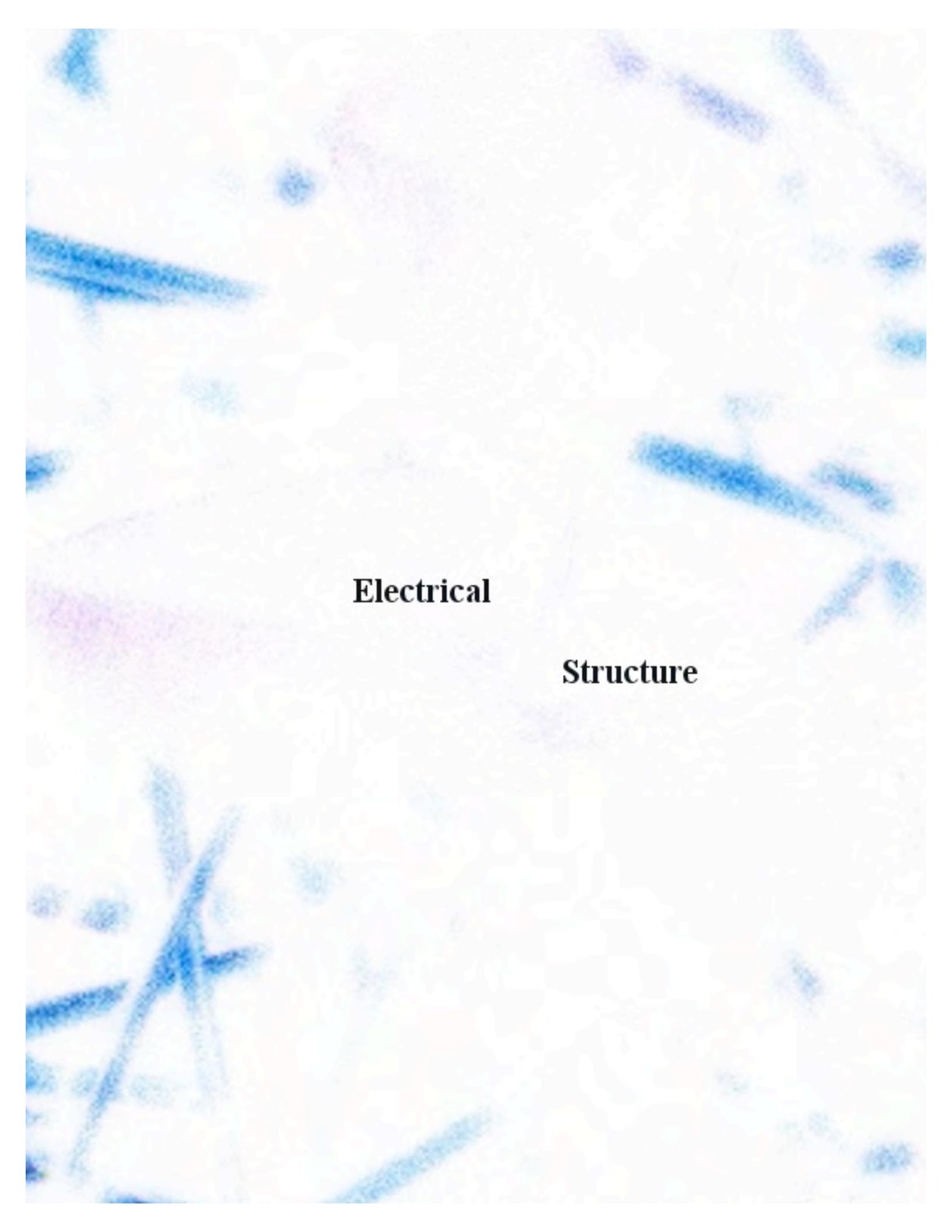
gallop. As  
dusk becomes overwhelming gray of  
corrupt  
cotton overwhelm

day resides  
anatropous  
prognosticating.

CS:

i/n/c/i/s/o/r/s





# **Electrical Structure**

FAS:

Circuitry  
window

held future version

awaiting  
positional avalanche  
deemed *cultural designation*. Penultimate  
relax

then become, sooner alteration  
mention moribund, yet,

fascinating legacy effectual.

CS:

Progress

Dictates Mathematical

Intricate Relations

Cognitive Engineering

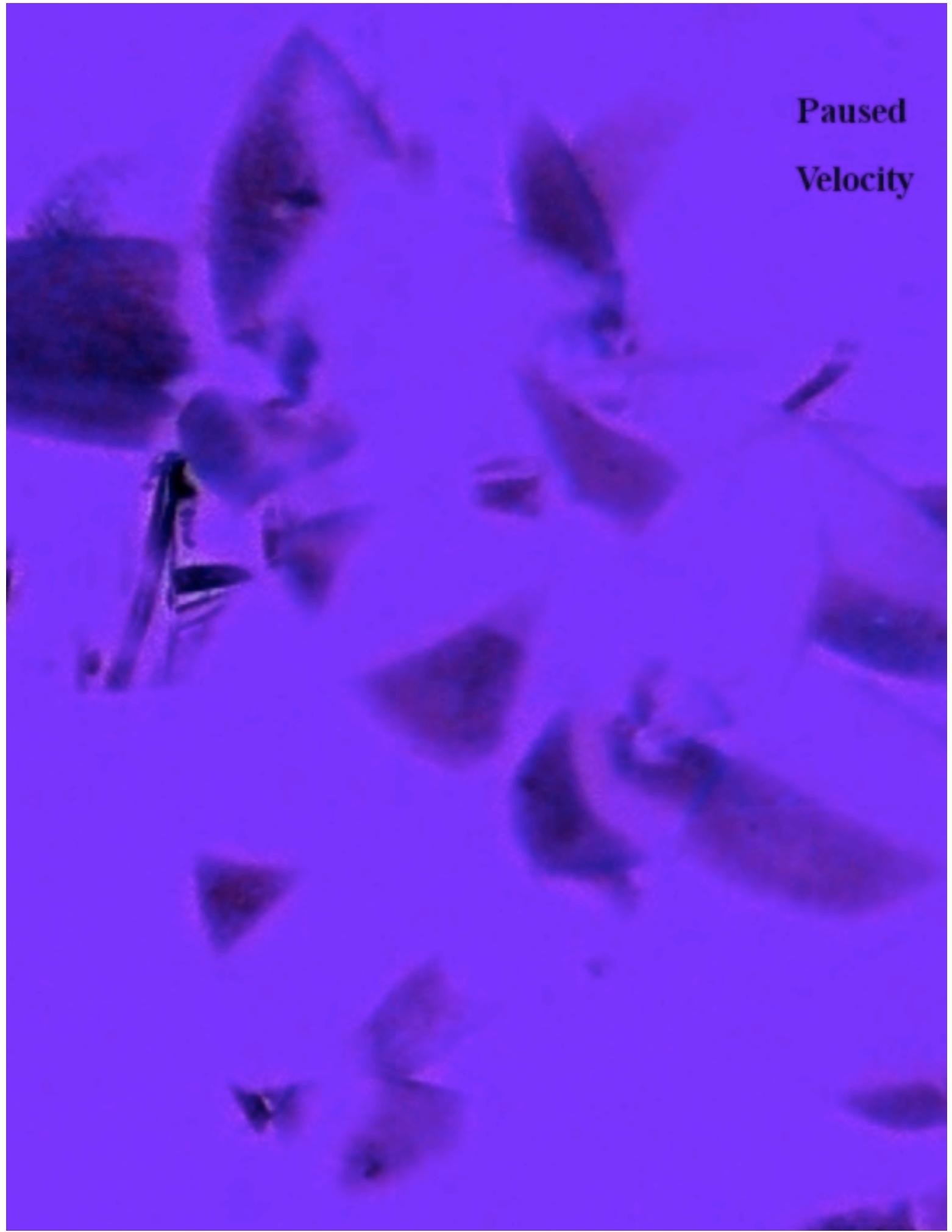
Ceaseless Inferential

Logos

\*flash)

Paused

Velocity



FAS:

Lips firm                    bruise firmly  
                                delicate  
body \_\_\_\_\_ bridge

/f/a/m/t/l/t/a/l/

absent self \s\  
                               renovated acclimation,

sustained. Motional existence six remain sweating  
option failure mispronounced variation focal

sedentary thinking.

CS:

### On Impact

Poly-hedrons

Lead Chants

Auricles  
Of Earth

(((((Lost  
Time

I\*wondered\*

At The Apex

A

Crystalline  
Prayer



FAS:

Chants ! circular  
interpretation [marked voice ascend voyeurism]  
charred corpus done overhauled

lift body residue renew clean  
clamor.

Cacophony dialectics  
mixture tongues 20-say  
liquid  
dissolve off tongue  
priorly visitation avenue of hear.

CS:

Icarus explodes!!!!!!!

Did you not hear?

(That version)

Melted?

No,  
He

Rose

Seeking Apollo

Glorious

O glorious

Purple wings here

untethered

feathers  
everywhere

More coffee?





**Palm, Embrace**

FAS:

From hand burgeon  
force focal  
paralleling  
life outer-womb  
embattled skeletal bold. Delight  
  
watch observing onlooker safe from à la mode evaluation  
  
perpendicular-slight fraction lean-away: judging's  
  
particular advance. Savory  
said of now beholding whole comments  
enveloping bits bound toward articulating  
gilded introversion.

CS:

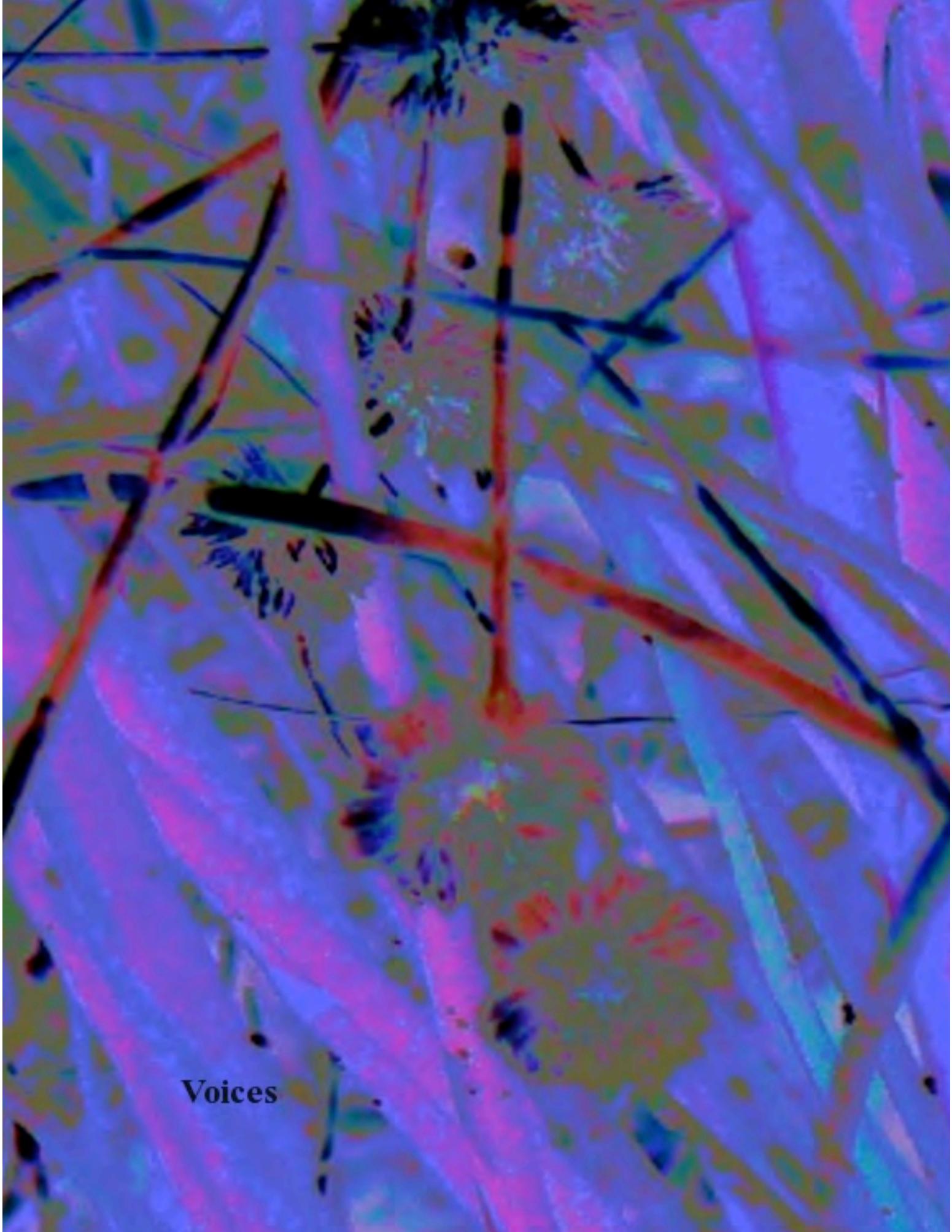
granular  
  
dominion

waves have abandoned

this hand

these sand  
Storm

whys



A vibrant, abstract painting composed of a complex web of intersecting lines in shades of blue, green, yellow, red, and black. A prominent vertical line runs down the center, intersected by several diagonal and horizontal lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The background is a light lavender or pink color, providing a soft contrast to the bold, energetic lines. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and visual complexity.

Voices

FAS:

Exact  
orthoepy  
submerged  
silken wrap  
beautiful whole  
calculation  
salmagundi.

CS:

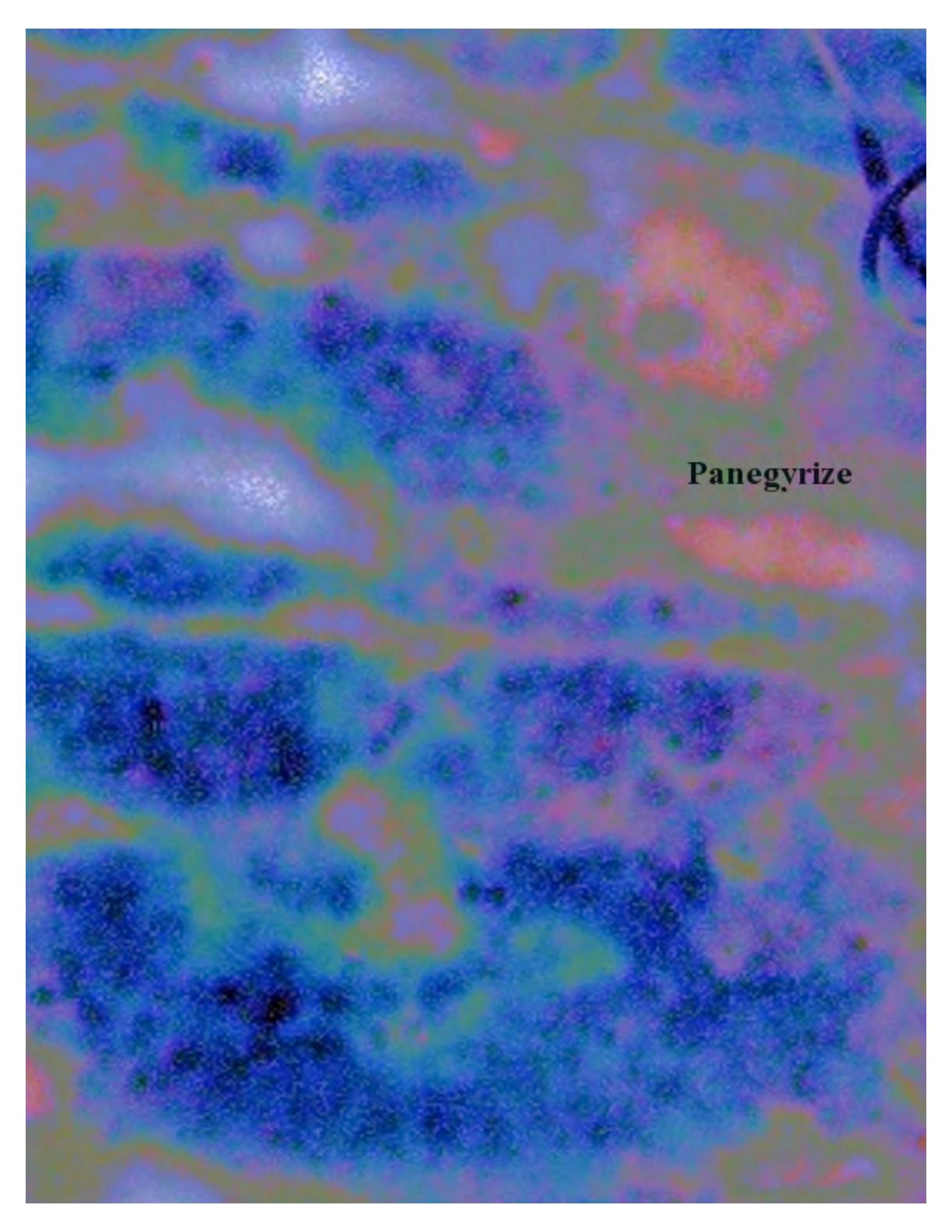
Echoes

A chamber of roses

Discarded, now

Footfalls      in unleavened  
                  Grass

Silhouette path  
Erased in a fragrant sun



Panegyrize

FAS:

Before

the unanimous  
version  
your                eleemosynary  
physical prayer version  
escaped into breaths of mourners' ex                ac  
er  
ba  
ting  
tone

you                sung  
such                winged blistering *and*  
protecting symbols of inherited  
cultivation.

CS:

the windows were cleaned

traceless

swallow perched precariously  
on mustard bramble                rambling;  
“finally,  
a view.”

by evening  
in all those lambent hollows  
in each lavender meridian

tinctured        by pink lengths

swallowing hills and silos

that face

# Disparate Silhouettes

in  
the  
city

of  
silhouettes

and  
silhouettes

in  
the  
city

FAS:

Out  
e scaly r  
skin function : conjure magnetic microscopic

focus

collaboration of the familial residue  
following  
growth mention of minuscule discovery.

Wait

thus

waiting builds of rebuilt microcosm of  
elegant  
differentia.

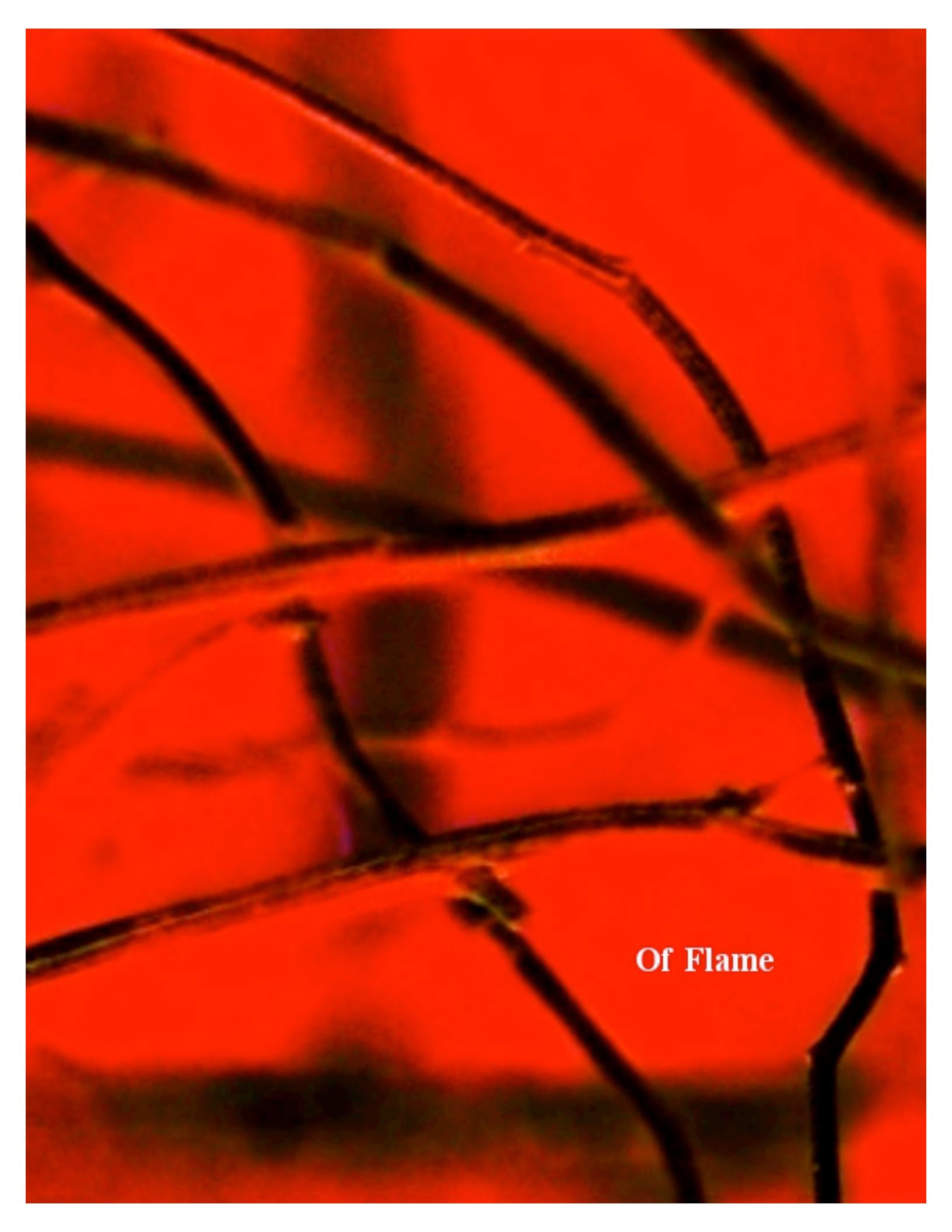
CS:

Stained  
under  
Glass

flat  
Matte

specters

((((Refract ))))  
annihilation s



Of Flame

FAS:

Visceral lungful  
knowing  
soon of your death of mirrors  
inward  
consolation  
delving  
moribund new-interpretational device

tool of fixing

situational chaos, soon now before now  
death, ascension.

CS:

crimson kisses

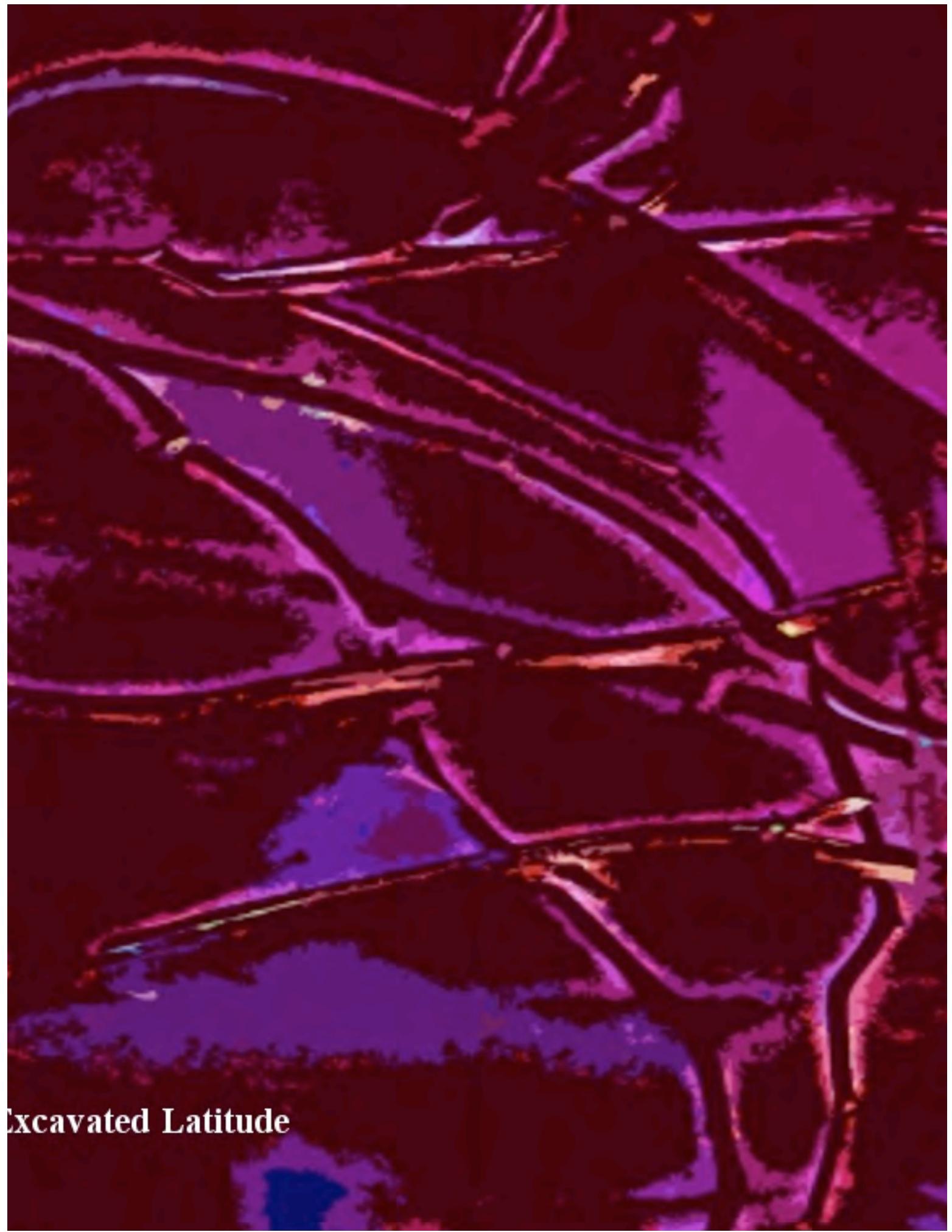
exhume

fingers

stripped                  of                  flesh

boiling in the savage

*noli me tangere*



**Excavated Latitude**

FAS:

Arms encircle  
paradigm of  
chiseled embrace  
branched bending      articulated  
pronouncement:      natural fibrous  
belonging to genetic spontaneous remarkable  
engagement.

CS:

In Golgotha

Last night

Scattered branches

The watered stars

No moon

whore  
priest

*Torn veil*

Lies      still      shine

Gilding the blackness



**Bruise of Dusk**

FAS:

Lips, electrical. Day begonia unraveled

silk  
gray then rests  
rewarding serenades of local infatuation.

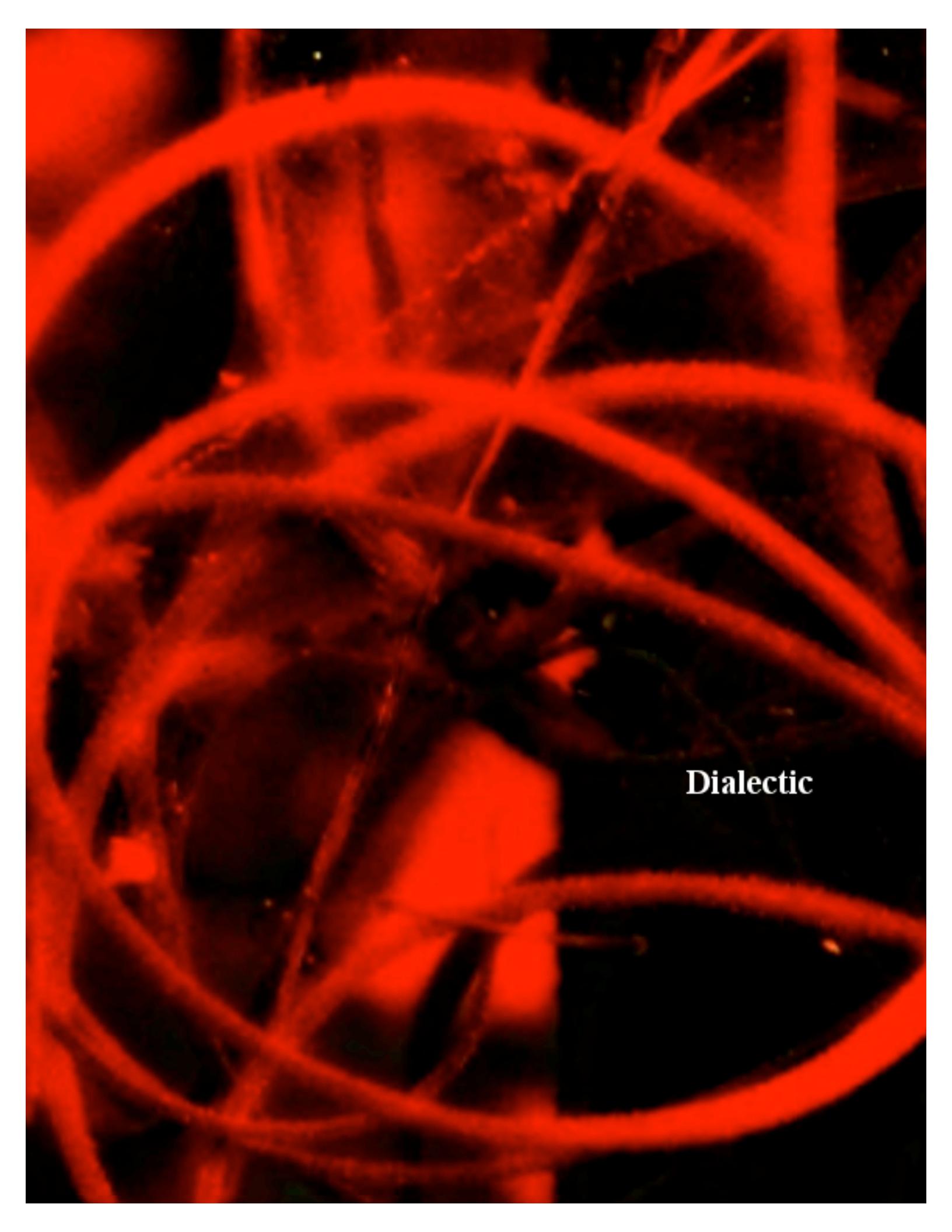
CS:

over left shoulder

She looks backs

Once.

... re/collecting ...



Dialectic

FAS:

Sacred  
I've truth  
water depth for your stuttering speed, explanation  
ground leaning off an angled  
of muscular dry from the overwhelming cling  
vilification.

CS:

*Heat* / /  
*Sweet* / /  
*Lethe*

t w I s t

*sappho*  
*smi-*  
*les*

*peter*  
*greets*



Irenic

FAS:

Verbal walking  
hand-lending devotional pacify      elongated  
outreach  
unto brethren scapegrace      mutilated self  
with  
isolated notions of disregarding prophecy:      alone I  
become bitter, better. From  
this hand  
I (speak here otherness relocating fathom of fear  
toward symbol of reconciliation)  
give self of before-not yet-become, hoping with hoping  
language  
you become again parallel with  
antonym of hating proclamation.

CS:

Squalor

Carnival of mud

Of madness

Savior exempt

Children of the Camp

Scream before  
The guns

Tattered as dolls

Apocalyptic anecdotes

Winged peace.



**Orison**

FAS:

My silent eyes  
calm now hushed, whisper  
garden thematic cultivated peace

from palm-hold secrets  
gathered

whole though fractioned by more so way of diluted articulation. Those or The hearing

CS:

## Bead by Bead

## Unholy sojourner

Lifts in the brilliantine white

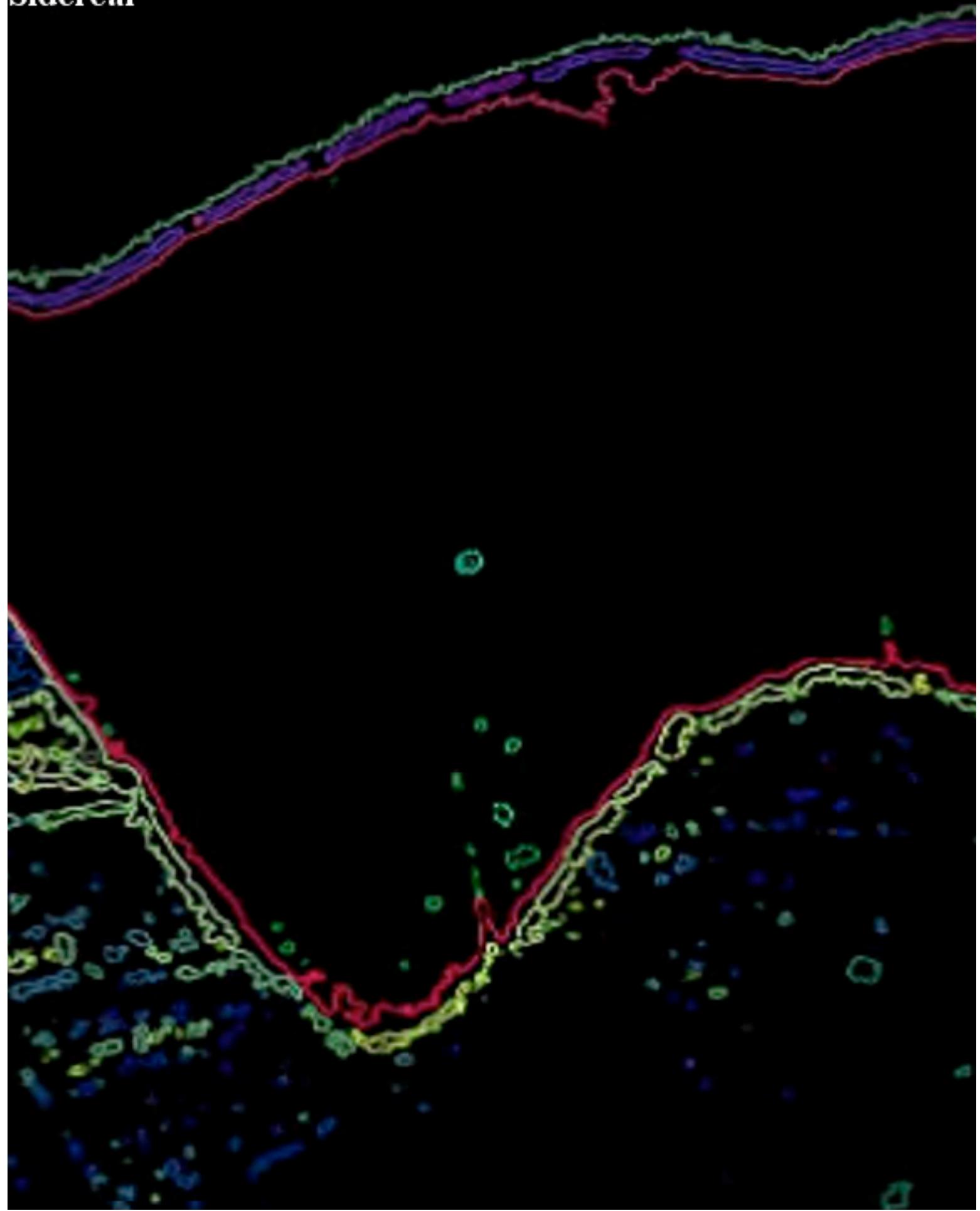
Body discarded

# Excavating Sun

Sabbath

(whisper ...

Sidereal



FAS:

Uplifted  
gather  
of  
tonight's blended emotional

deity

voice of \*'s stuttering blink  
speaks foreign tonality tongued      avalanche  
of aiding portioned monuments

seen now  
                though born many years  
before visiting an hour's  
portico of embrace.

CS:

andromeda

sanskrit////////////////

galactic

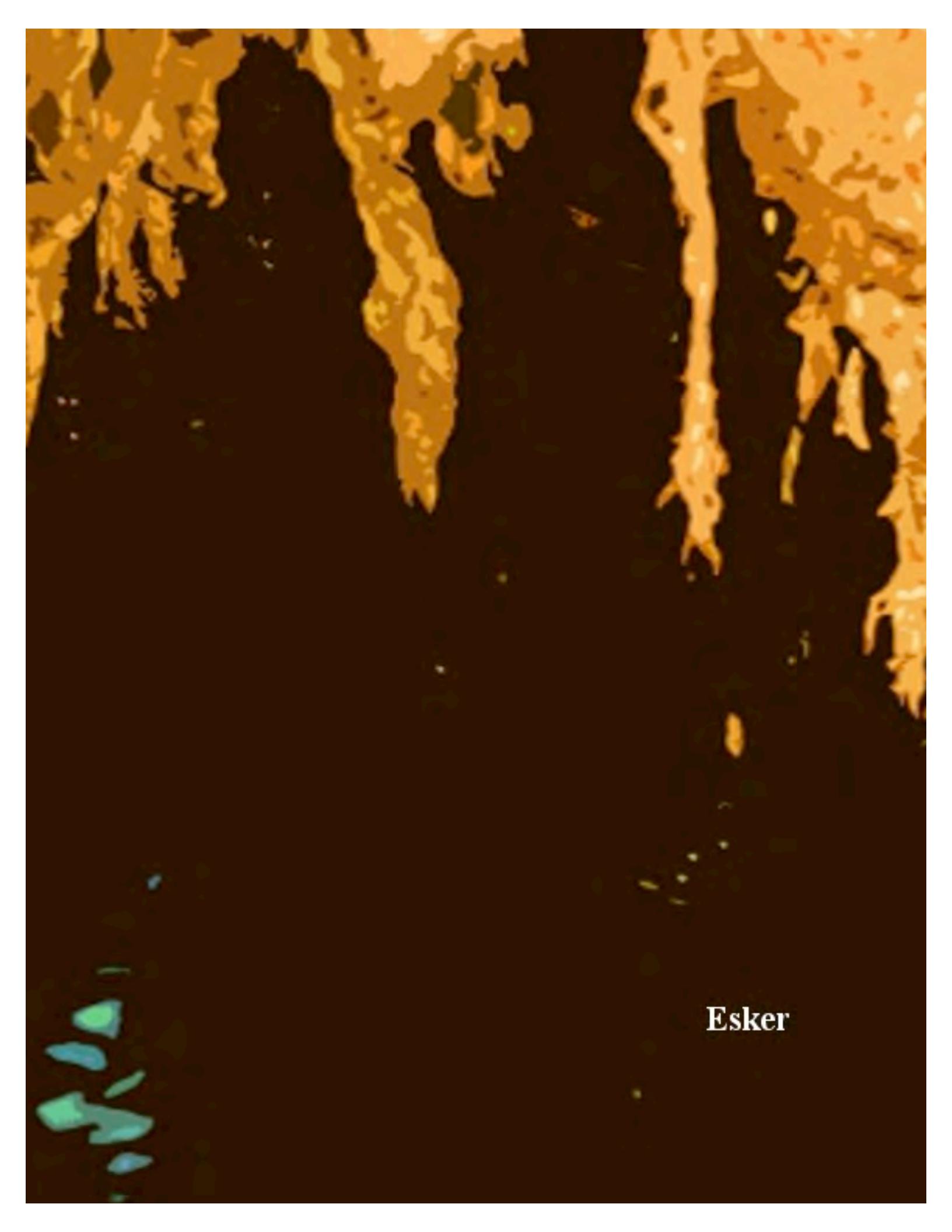
~~~~~ miasmas

{lupine
bubbles}

ancestral

emeralds

these stars



Esker

FAS:

Men
donning
e m p t y
suits
skeletal dismay why of intellect unanswered, wary, now
posit dissipating hope from foaming warmth
patterned off tongues' ideological jejuneness
leaps of truth
forming falsities of negligent education. You
hang
cold but
unaware
language provides reasoned
battery against the nonbelieving others
dedicating promise to understand cyclic
invention.

CS:

Honey
River

Spills

Succulence

Warm

Land

Strands



Panegyric

FAS:

Em
brace

able

c
o
n
t
o
u
r
s

worn well by metaphoric threaded hand-woven
performance
danced silent
behind screen of desired
fabrication
praise, my tongue unfolds
onto the skin of
your shied
delicate
confinement.

CS:

Languid

Salons

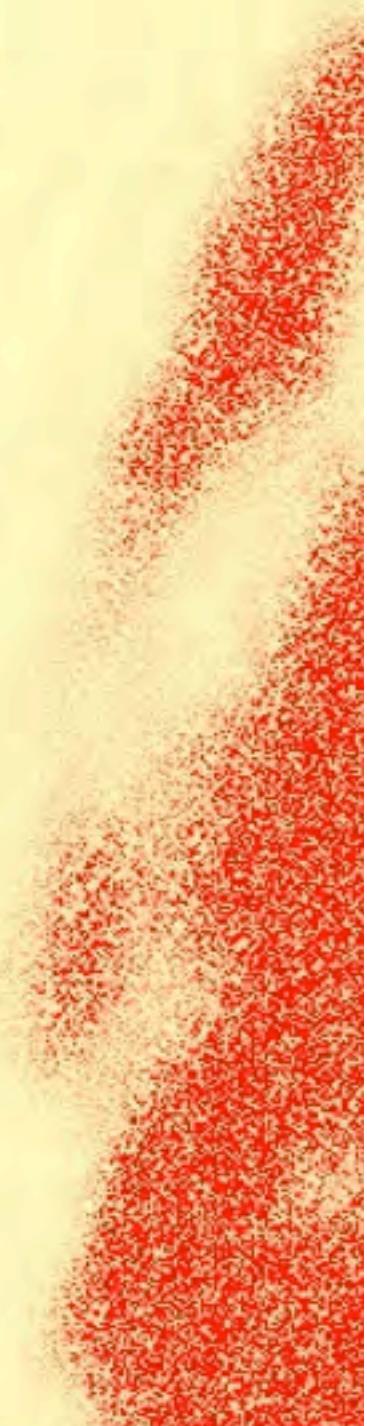
Iris
Hipped

Portrait

v s
o u
l o
u t
p

persuasions

Ghost Dancers



CS:

Burning through

flames

Totems of abandoned children

Reach through a yellow fog

Bulbous and bloated

Bereft of bed

Of flesh

Silhouettes of lost

Find

no

face

FAS:

Halos

burning scars

appositional to alabaster

wounds

yet healed architecture

housing

sporadic

formulations

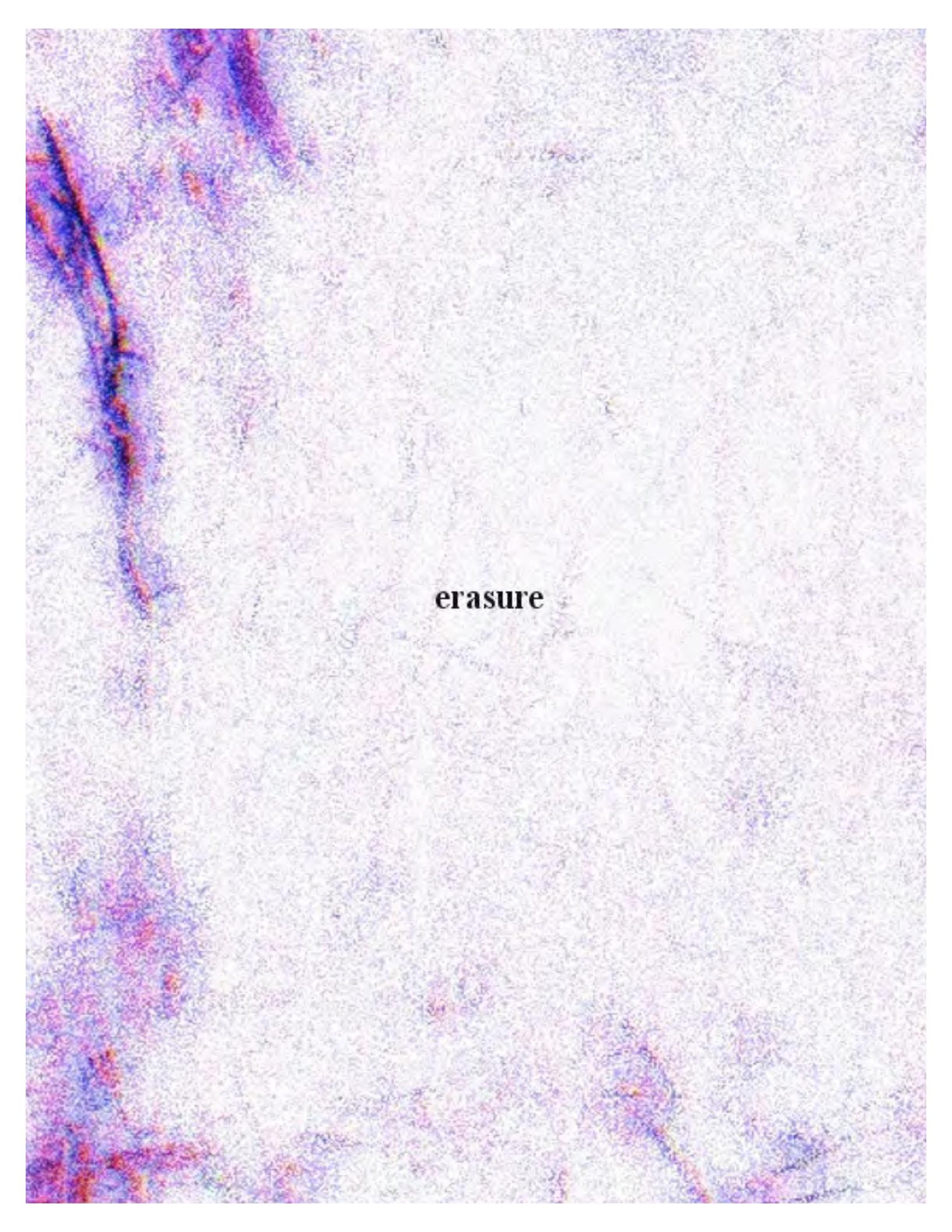
stereotyped

against

prophesied templates of

verbal

malignity.



erasure

CS:

frosted pane

kissing
the glass

sliver of bruise

my lips

there was a street

of grass

fatted, we walked

as cobblestones parted

as lips

in monet
colors

scenes of a marriage

now, blinds are drawn

white slate

white slats

... w/hit/e

FAS:

Electrostatic
housing wings of
fluid actuation

glued among silvery
subdued focus

b lu ~~fr~~—u e d

prism witness whitening

weather near farness and sporadic hope

splaying

bruised



wearing

partial past

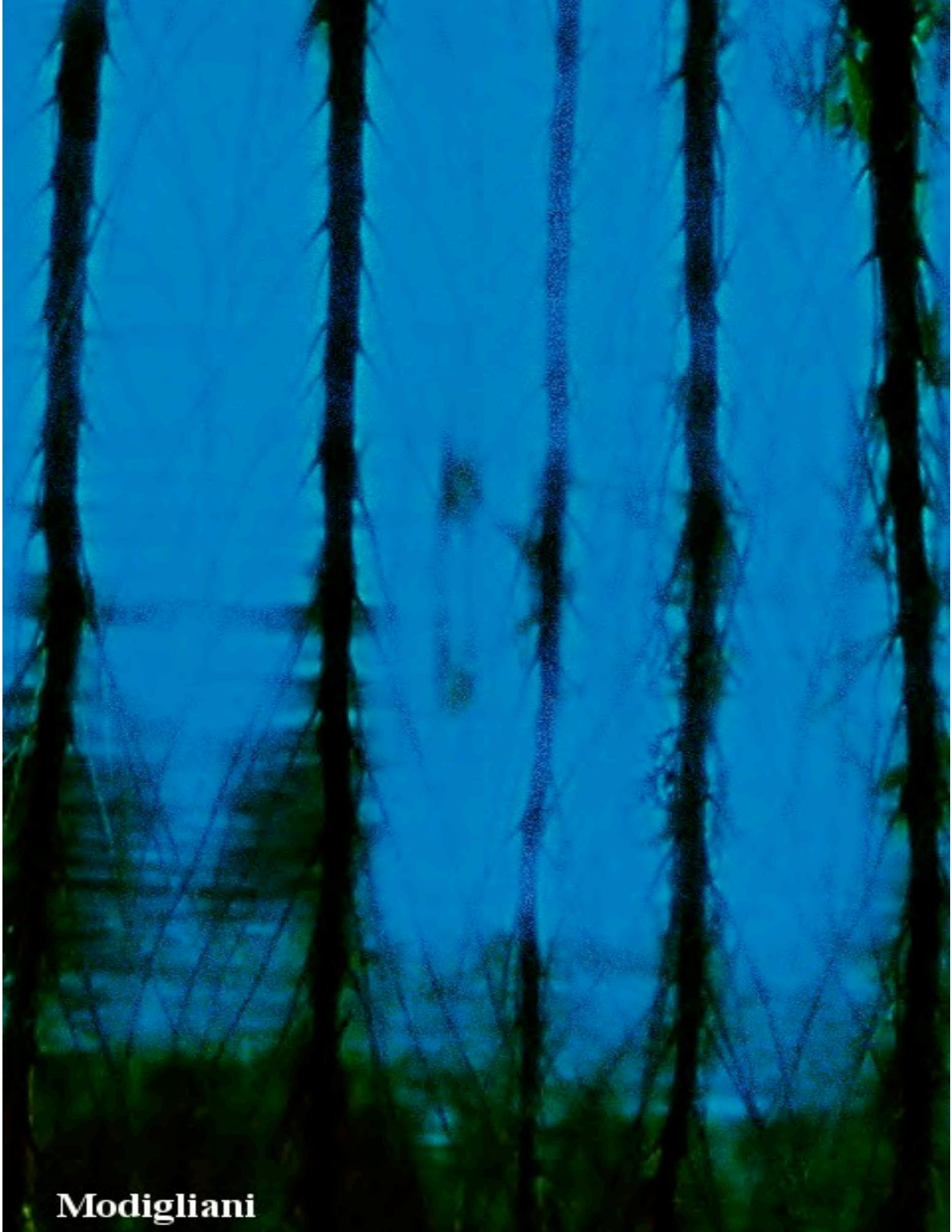
hitherto scathing haunt

of

minuscule version

blatantly





Modigliani

CS:

Woman
Stalks of

Winking the

Dance
Blue nude

((((Picasso
Amadeo

Absinthe in sips

FAS:

Veins
lightning marvel
hid

impressionistic wordcount

prose ineffable

hid

as

deity combined
definition connotation

- tongueless |h|e|a|r|d
- brief stylized
- syncopated

near waters' earthen
canopy of

orchestrated camaraderie.

Tibet

CS:

peach water ~

Gilded

Tintinnabulations

*ping**

Tremble

Monastic

Call

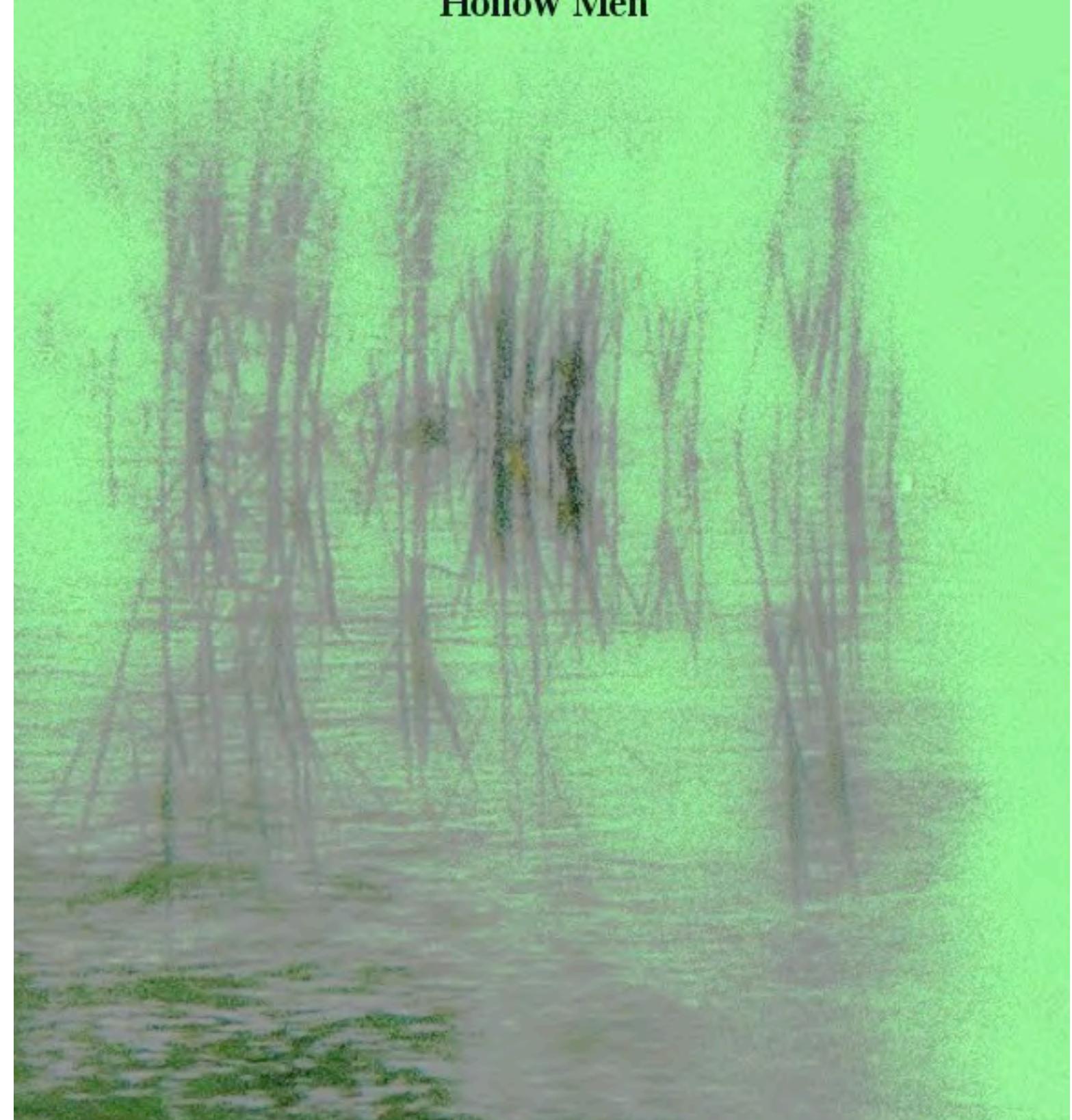
**ping*

Lotus
Abides

FAS:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--|------------|
| Eyesight | drenched | | |
| | mimesis | quotidian alternate | antithesis |
| corporeal moment, pardon | | | |
| the body's absent | | | |
| swung into | | positional comfort | |
| circa outer-minutes most | | | intimate |
| momentum | | | |
| we the | | | |
| calling-onto-virtue | | | |
| other naming. | | held on partitioned hands of unfolding | |

Hollow Men



CS:

We are

Acid

We are

Stench

steel

legions

of greed

grey

vomit

FAS:

They were promised

anecdotal

healing

promised

mother affection found

on magazines' cultural averages

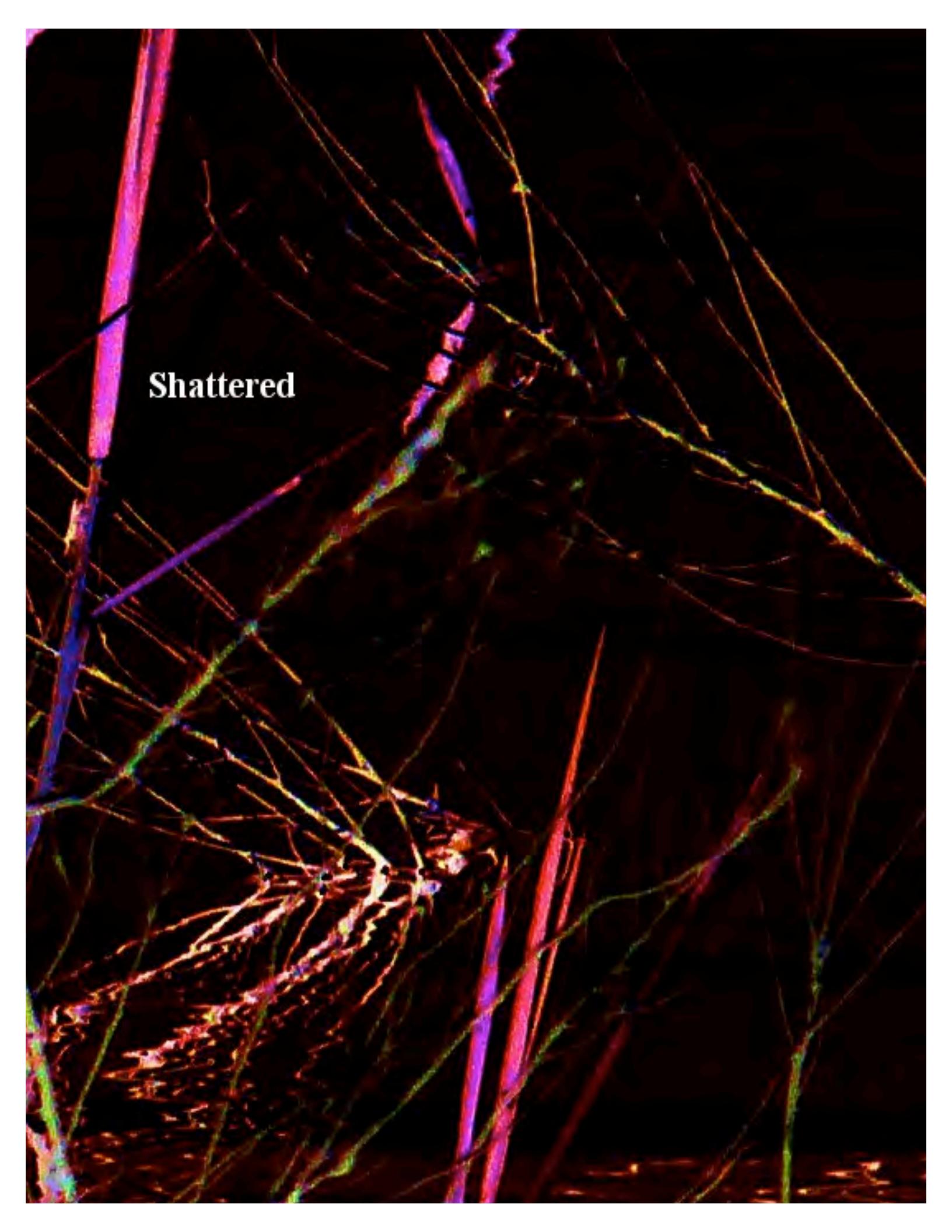
leaving

skeletal selves to

become branded brands of

others' versions

mimicking assentation.

A close-up photograph of a shattered glass surface. The shards are numerous, thin, and jagged, creating a complex web of points and lines against a dark background. The shards reflect a variety of colors, including bright reds, blues, and yellows, which appear as streaks and highlights along the edges of the broken pieces.

Shattered

CS:

rain past sorrow
that night wipers
like daggers washed
the embers of fingers
the road
of coffin nails through daggers
stiletto
branches a fawn
in brights smash
back

you come

FAS:

Clasped glass conjecture of veins woven death-long suffrage

ex po sed constitution.

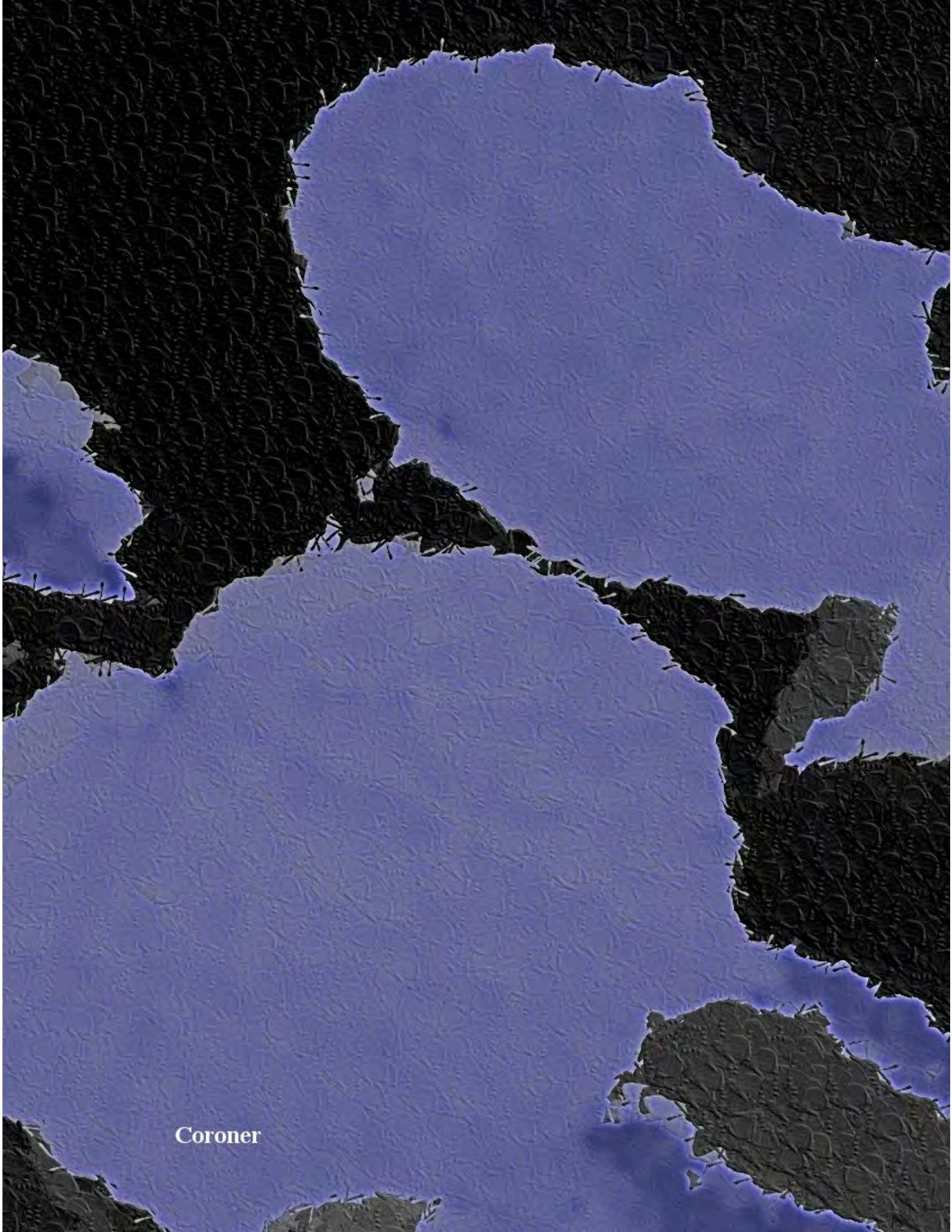
Mercy

is the fundamental pardon
such death exudes

in overlapping variances

of
light's dimming absence

cultural prelude among phantoms of necessary yet unnecessary brokenness.



Coroner

CS:

After the taunting
the violins

the
meticulous
arrangement

of notes
alphabetically
sired

TO:

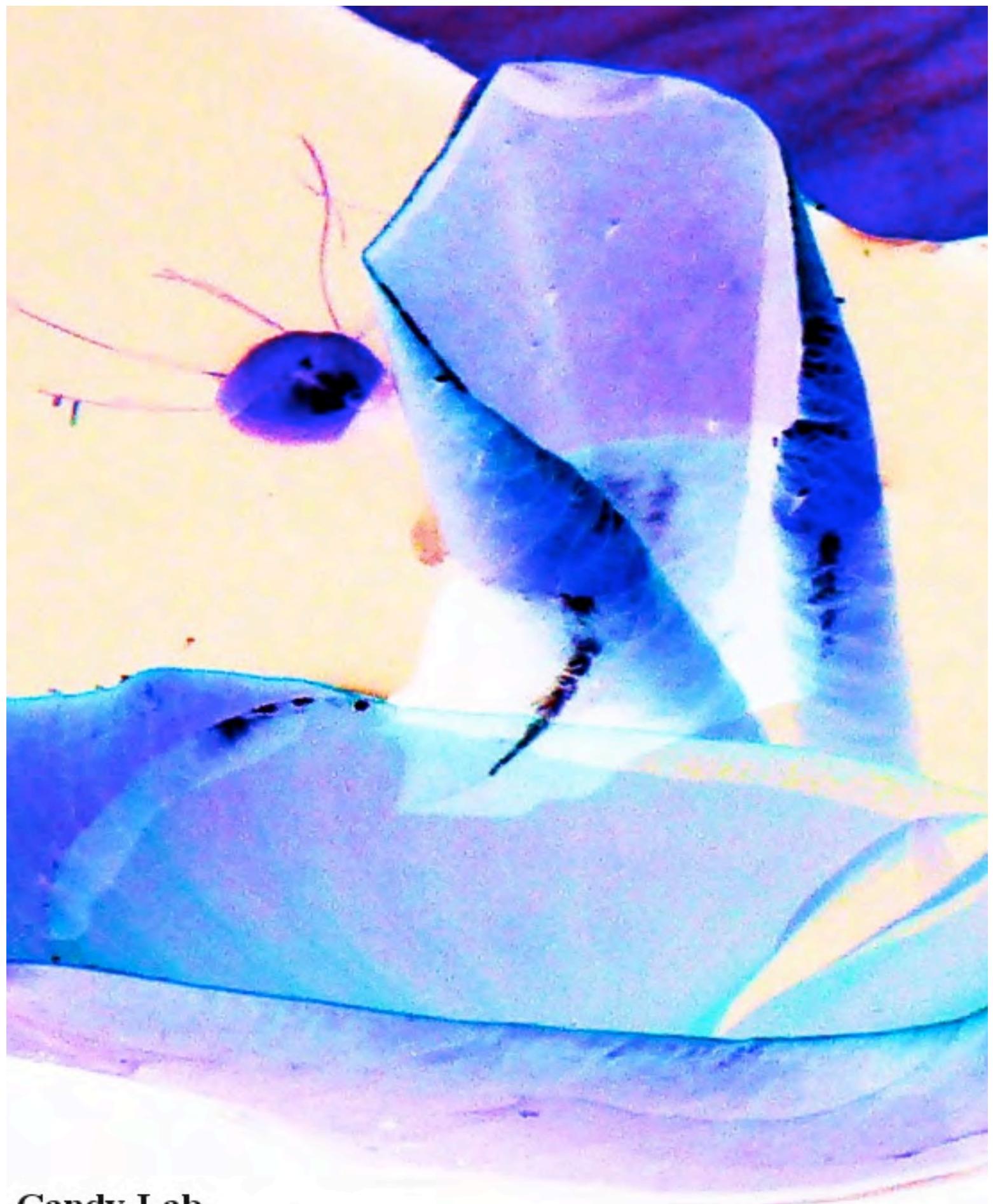
his lawyer
his broker
his plumber
he put on cologne
and jumped.

FAS:

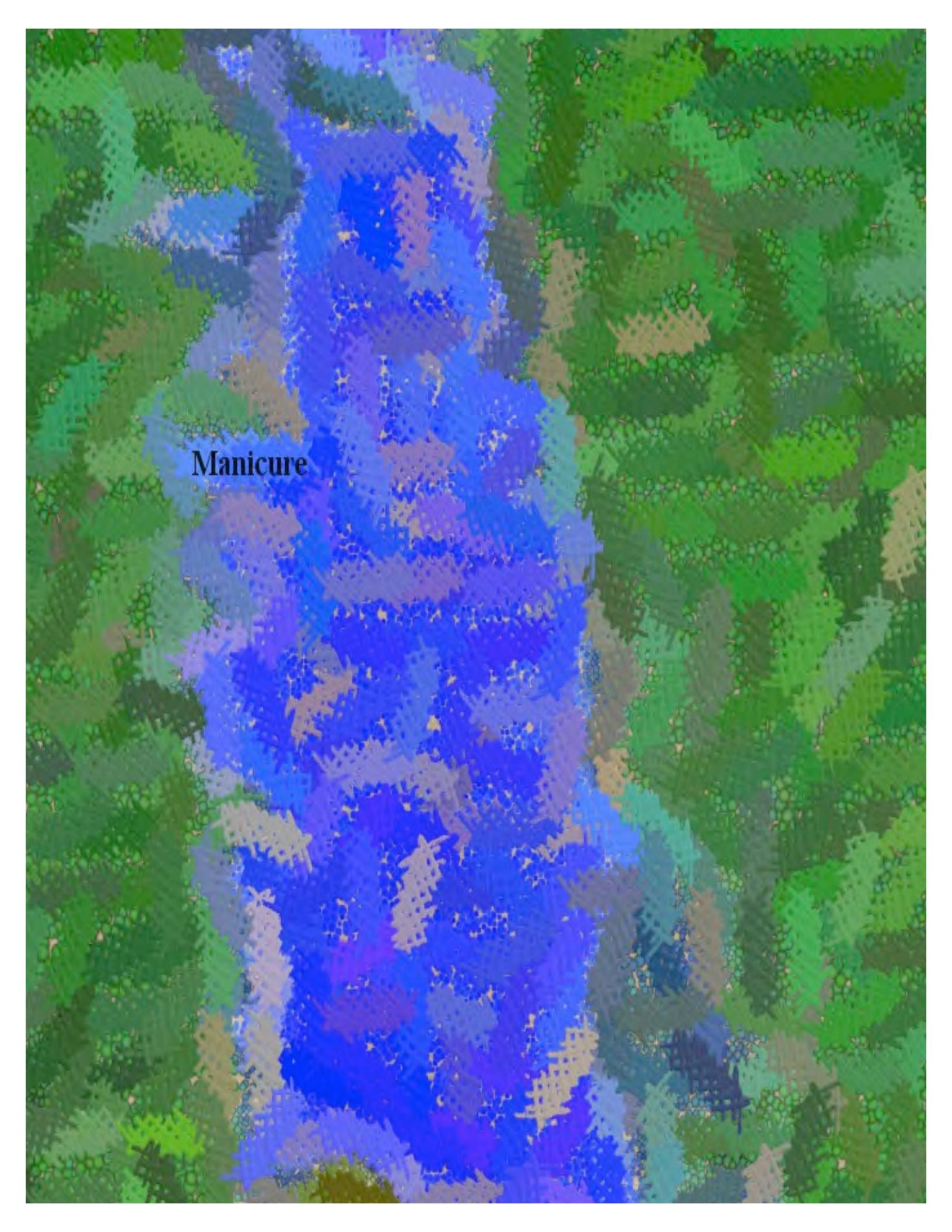
Decapitation of life
caterpillar crawling definitional
texture
haunted mimesis
mirror
reflectional echo of collaborative fears. When
leaving

bodies of former smiles
upon entering home
of lightless shadows

heard are voices
explaining incisions of maps
lead into versions of wounds'
prior births.



Candy Lab



Manicure

CS:

An installed
Lake?

“A wonder!”

Japanese fronds?

“Byrne-Jones.”

The gardener ,
Franz.

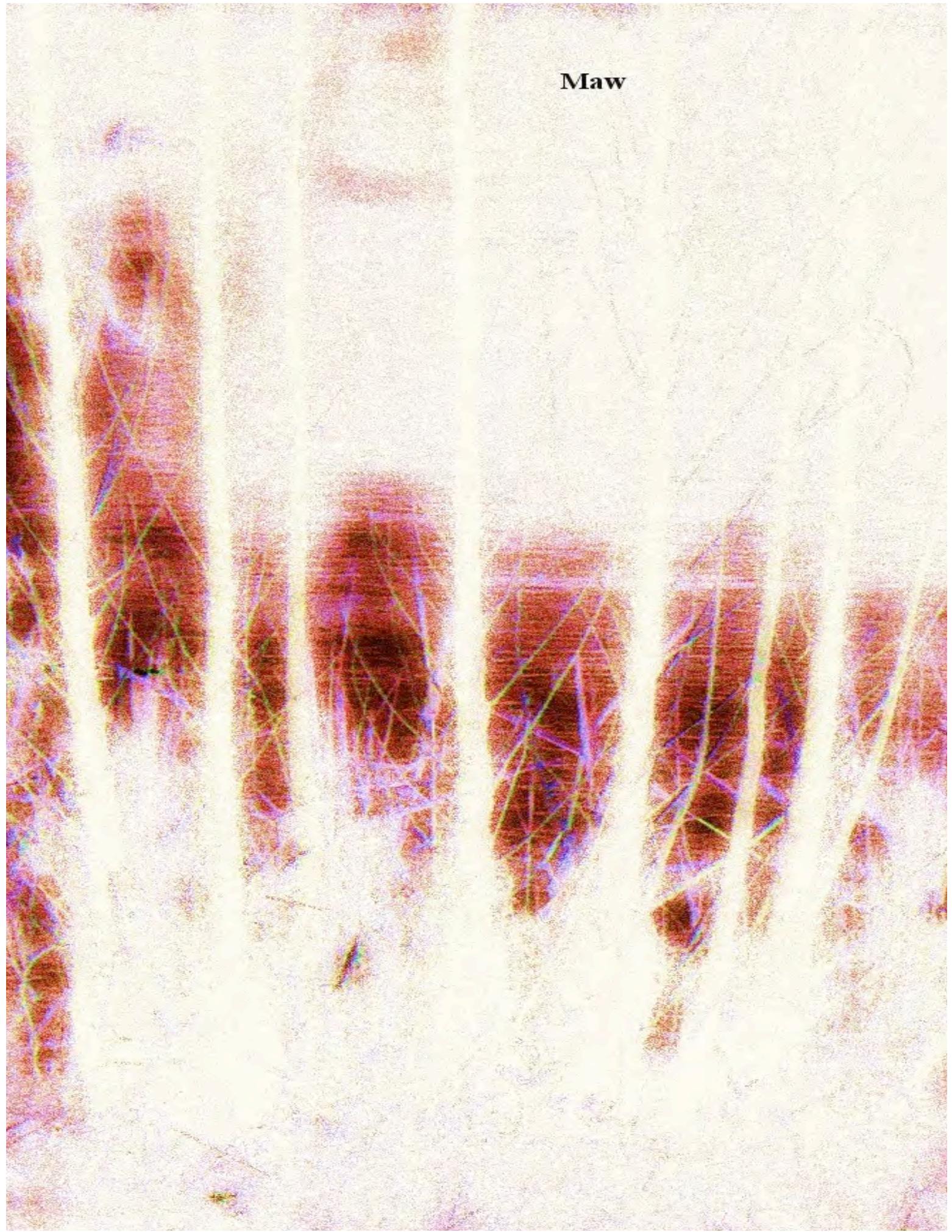
FAS:

Macerate!

Your tongues young ones
relatable
gifts mother dissection DNA
reactivate embraces
gone to
debatable deaths

Herculean deposits
strength
jazz ballad s*e*r*e*n*a*d*e*
version of veridical deluge.

Maw



CS:

Jonah

Knows

The

Eye of Decision

Comes upon us

And each unto each

We trust

peer

reaching

seeking ...

light

Maw Opens.

FAS:

Lit savior

spoken whispered thin delineate

now

verbatim

now

crossed salvation token specificity

yes, trusted

albeit brief encompassing

virtue faculty of listening

silence of

copacetic

deliverance.



Felino A. Soriano (b. 1974), is a case manager and advocate for developmentally and physically disabled adults. He has authored 34 collections of poetry, including "In Praise of Absolute Interpretation" (Desperanto, 2010) and "Realities of Bifocal Translations" (Blue & Yellow Dog Press, 2010). Over 2,200 of his poems have appeared in print and online publications, including *Calliope Nerve*, *Unlikely 2.0*, *BlazeVOX*, *Metazen*, *Otoliths*, and elsewhere. He edits & publishes [*Counterexample Poetics*](#), an online journal of experimental artistry, and [*Differentia Press*](#), dedicated to publishing e-chapbooks of experimental poetry. In 2010, he was chosen for the Gertrude Stein "rose" prize for creativity in poetry from *Wilderness House Literary Review*. Philosophical studies collocated with his connection to classic and avant-garde jazz explains motivation for poetic occurrences. His website explains further: www.felinoasoriano.info.



Constance Stadler has been writing, publishing, and editing poetry from the 'prehistoric' epoch of print journals to modern e-times. She was a former editor of South and West and is currently a contributing editor to several zines. She has published over 1,000 poems and three chapbooks in her 'first manifestation' as a poet and has recently released her first two chaps in 20 years, *Tinted Steam* (Shadow Archer Press) *Sublunary Curve* (Erbacce) a full manuscript, *Paper Cuts* (Calliope Nerve Media) and a collaborative work (with Rich Follett), *Responsorials* (NeoPoiesis Press).

Her most recent work appears in such 'zines as *BlazeVox*, *ditch*, *ken*again*, *Pen Himalaya*, *Rain Over Bouville*, *Clockwise Cat*, *Unlikely Stories 2.0*, *Hanging Moss*, *Neonbeam*, and *Gloom Cupboard*. A Pushcart Prize nominee, she has been 'Featured Poet' for the *Guild of Outsider Writers*, *Counterexample Poetics* and *The Poetry Warrior*.

