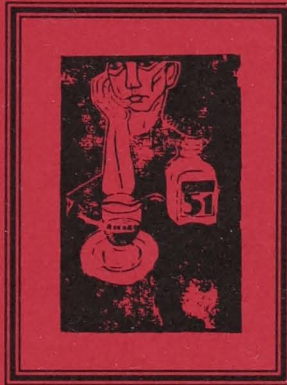


absinthe

strong stuff for the literary addict



suki davis ~ m. w. field ~ méira cook

delila ruth jahn ~ carole stewart

ven begamudré ~ candas jane dorsey

carla mobley ~ cory hopfner ~ yasmin ladha

scott mcfarlane ~ nicole brössard ~ fred wah

charlene diehl-jones ~ nicole markotic ~ robert kroetsch

Volume 5
Number 1

Summer 1992

Six Dollars

absinthe

*"The enigmatic surrealist playwright Alfred Jarry insisted
that rational intelligence was inferior to hallucinations
and relied on absinthe to ensure a steady supply of the latter."*

— Wilfred Niels Arnold, *Scientific American*, June 1989

Volume 5, Number 1

Summer 1992

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Special thanks for technical assistance to Eva Atkey

absinthe is set in Garamond and Goudy typefaces

We gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Calgary, the Calgary Region Arts Foundation and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts

absinthe is published twice per year: summer and winter.

Subscription rates: \$10/year, \$18/two years for individuals; \$12/year, \$25/two years for institutions; single copies \$6. US subscribers please pay in US funds.

Note for librarians, distributors, and subscribers: *absinthe* is a continuation of *Secrets from the Orange Couch*. This issue is Volume 5, Number 1, Summer 1992

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Printed by: University of Calgary Students' Union Print Division

Cover art by Marjan Eggermont

Manuscripts should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope to ensure return. Please indicate whether submitted work is available on floppy disk.

Submission deadlines: October 1 and April 1

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Si sismal

If Yes Seismal

(from *à tout regard*)

(a transcreation from "Si sismal")

si aboyer ou noyer la voix
parmi les images et les mots
éveille un peu de crainte
abrite alors la figure choisie
le bord renversé de vivre
labelle spacieux

if above the clysmic bark heaves
noise the voice detonates images and
words for life a little crazy we
think but all right before the actual
figures choose choice the border
labels space in you

si quelque tissu de soie persiste
sur les lèvres et trop excite
respire d'un air naturel
même si demain va vite
dans l'anatomie
cherche d'autres récits

if any persistent tissue bristles pitapat
on the heart's much too excited lip
could be the air's too rare
naturally some same body
remembers too late
to search for another wave

si à petits coups de langue
d'expression la tension continue
rapproche les mots crus
l'horizon s'il le faut
jusqu'en la bouche

if a small cup of language
soups intention with a continued
expression against word crust
until the horizon of approach
whose fault whose lips

si le timbre de la voix
se transforme et que trop de chaos
ou que mélancolie s'installe
combine la variété des réponses
la théâtralité de parler

if the forest of the voice
transforms into the trop of chaos
or melancholy installs itself
in the parlour of surprise plant
variety re-speak pond

si ça recommence et qu'il fait chaud
trop chaud encore dans les jointures
appuie partout sur le quotidien
il reste de grands trous
des saveurs inexplicables
baies, corail, littorines

if the see-saw bounces back hot to trot
trembling shows up again late cell
synapse applied part out on
a day of rest great truth
a vague smack of the lips
gulfs, coral, littoral

si, tu trembles, tu vois bien
forcément il y a du blanc
c'est vrai et forcément
tu trembles

if, you tremble, you should see
inevitably there is some white
it is true and of course
you tremble