

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Othoparadoxy: Part II

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Orthoparadoxy, continued

by Michael Theune

History consigned to the dustbin of information.

★

In this age of undifferentiation, the boundary, the limit, and the edge are the halo, the corona, the aura.

★

Dissolution as solution.

★

Reductio ad absorbum.

★

Socrates: I am wise because I know I know nothing.
Bataille: You don't know shit.

★

We believe in the authentic mostly because we think we see it in other people.

★

Via media versus via Medea.

★

Value can always be preserved in risk.

★

Smashing the blue guitar.

★

It is no longer enough to be attentive; attention is the natural piety of a comfortable middle class. Now, one must be alert; alertness is the natural piety of the hunter and the hunted.

★

Is irony the only mean between faith and detachment?

★

The infinite distance between studying the mystics and being one.

★

He hated himself for thinking such shallow thoughts, yet for some reason he thought his hatred special.

★

To be a successful post-Romantic: die young, take notes.

★

During the revolution, the cathedral goes up in flames, and, after, the flame goes up in cathedrals.

★

Sometimes you have to spit on the world to make it shine.

★

So many are alive only for the sake of their salvation.

★

Because either they present a once-vital teaching as something outmoded to a changed world or else they present a changed world with an updated version of “the teaching,” all disciples are, in some way, betrayers.

★

The reaching after any object is the stretch before sleeping.

★

The world is the dead thing that takes one’s place for now.

★

Does vertigo increase or decrease the further one falls?

★

Perhaps the positivists were right; proper description may be our only deliverance, a formal greeting that exhausts us...

★

The flower will not be lifted. Still, must one bow to it?

★

*The cut worm forgives the plow...*Mr. Blake, the worm drives the plow.

★

Today the dream is different: the turning point of the still world.

★

Many poems are only an inch away from greatness, but that inch must be traversed at light speed.

★

If form is, as Coleridge said, a method of proceeding, let's not call form a container but instead call it a reactor.

★

Before induction or deduction there must be seduction.

★

Today realism is no longer admired for its resemblance or representation. Realism is admired for the sense of masochism there is about its creation.

★

Two thousand years before any theory of "the spectacle," the Bible already proclaimed that something always happens where two or three are gathered to look on.

★

Television: the status quo unleashed.

★

I imagine Icarus sailing through a solar eclipse.

To be continued . . .