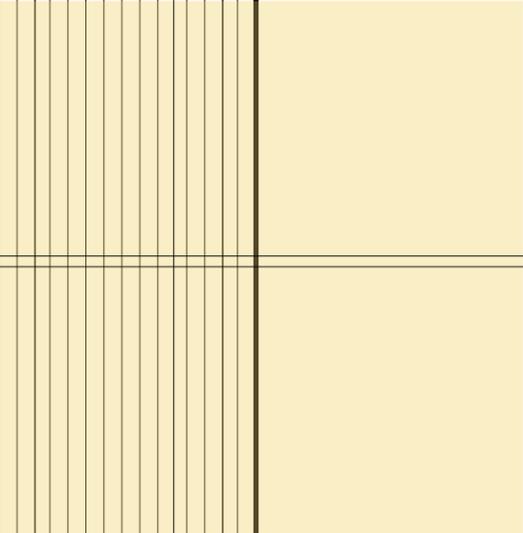


angle poise

selected poems

margot lettner



anglepoise

All morning I've watched a
kingfisher dip the river.
Anglepoise lamp watching
for shadows, diving to
plunge pool nothing but
white crest, grey belt
her skim ripple, show.
A flame shoulder of maple this morning,

summer's cushion is ending.
A thousand mulberry will drop,
aspen will shake. My pencil whispers
sloe-words on a string, their
soft anapest, bent;
my line, straw splint.

tourmente

My idea about the existence
of this volcano:
a pink silver blue birth
a chimney on fire

& tho' I dance a great deal how much
I wish to hear matters of moment:
the wonder, the wound
the perfectly frozen blue distant.

red poll

November has remembered itself.

Settled in tents we read Palladio under the cones of the lamps.

Ours a small pattern of days rimmed blue, some large blasted Pine quite white.

My little case of paints.

My fleecy hosiery Great Coat on.

Gypsy fine in china snow.

I copy what picturesque, what bruised I hymn.

The apprehension of falling kept me warm.

Nights stripped dry, rivers flown.

We whisper summer porches, four-wind views, blueprints.

The winter birds love us, in bushes of stars.



crève-coeur

Of your dying,
Oceans to follow.

My tear bottle.
My blue lily child.

sketches on the back of an envelope

would be us
Mars Lumograph pencil, a slim 2B,
soft grey lines like late winter breathing
(you write I erase you write
I erase) the spring we speak of

if never a forward thing —
you're drawing again, and the rain
falling of a late afternoon has fallen before, and

the orchid on the table between us was, I remember, cow parsley
between the bleached ribs of the barn —
We have no plans,

sometimes you keep the paper
lately, now days are longer, I've picked the pencil up again.

Anglepoise is a conversation in poems between two women over 220 years.

It references *Mrs. Simcoe's Diary*, the work of Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim Simcoe, author, painter, and mapmaker, who lived in Canada 1791-1796.

Often in a canvas tent, often reading by candlelight.

These poems are a "sampler" from the collection, forthcoming 2015-16.

anglepoise • margot lettner

Arrangement and design • Aaron Friend Lettner

Notes

"red poll" includes words or phrases from the diary in lines 3, 4, 5 and 8.

"tourmente" is an erasure poem created from the diary. Erasure is a form of found poetry created by erasing words from an existing text, either intuitively or systematically, to give the original new or different meaning or suggestion. In this poem Simcoe wrote the words, and in the order they appear, in her diary; Lettner has erased and re-composed them. First published *Northern Cardinal Review*, December 2013.

Source texts

Simcoe, Elizabeth. *Mrs. Simcoe's Diary*. Mary Quayle Innis, ed.
Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1965.

Simcoe, Elizabeth. *The Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, Wife of the First Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, 1792-6*. J. Ross Robertson, ed. Toronto: Coles Pub. Co., 1911 [reprint 1973].

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