



# Multitudes

Margaret Christakos



Deilmsttuu  
Sedutitlum



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alphabets exist

Inger Christensen, trans. Susanna Nied



THRESHOLD

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HOOP

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MOUNDS

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# Threshold

sing th body electric  
Walt Whitman

push words into body.

do those words form a column or spiral?

do those words coalesce as body

into the body they conjure?

push words into mouth.

do those words form a tongue or jetty?

is a probe formed that touches

the tongue it entangles?

push words onto mound of nipple,

onto mounded nipple jewels.

do words circulate as honey, as

tentacles that leaven and stiffen?

are words the door-slab we cross

or the instepping over?

do words think what they want

or rush in, impartial?

fasten words into armpits,  
kneebacks, elbow fronts.  
do these words moving into view  
bulk or break like touch or  
are they just its cushions?

do I cock my head sideways  
peer along tubal promontories and  
at this occult angle drench  
my throat in letters?

do I tongue-roll speech?

do I usher words  
into corridors we recognize  
or do new phrases  
fissure the organism?

pack syllables into glands.  
deliver glandular phonemes glad to open.  
proposition palms moistening  
in response.  
wave words toward portals  
as if bright green pennants.  
signal presence at the threshold.

do words gush good manners?  
do words think about waiting?  
can words hold back or off or away  
until the body goes rigid and dirigible?

a warm headwind pushes against the body  
the way words do.  
words form a column or spiral  
of headwind, and it is honeyed.  
it is tentacled. it is probing.  
words suckle the column and  
nipple the mound, delve inside ducts  
and shovel out insides.

let's push words into coming.  
gnash words into coming, into body.  
shove grammar onto parts.  
load coming into each.  
is it the threshold of coming or  
the deep thrash of asking?

I wonder do words have any clue.  
I wonder if words hold me  
or if you do.  
maybe there's zero here  
save our so-green thresholds.



# Hoop

Bitch, bitch, bitch.

Maude, *Maude*



SEESAW NG

meaning,

moaning

moaning,

meaning

*[rpt.]*

LOVE SONG

in u

i nu

PARTITION SONG

nous

no us

SUBSTITUTION SONG

no we

now e

GORILLAQUY

sehcrul

dnarts

detavele

htiw

tarantula

seilleb evisolpxe

kcolf

detanod

gnyiap

oiranecs

stib

sselriah

erutaN sa elbavol

dehctitsni

tnuocca

yuqolilos

tn'ac

sugahpose fo

*[etc.]*

BRINGING

In bringing in this gorilla  
which lurches in2 soliloquy  
This gorilla's bewildered  
This gorilla has a body so different ...  
it can't b in th room  
lacking or having  
a strand of esophagus  
garnished in something timid  
This elephant  
This shark, mastodon  
Purple loosestrife n leeches  
elevated in an elevator  
then vapour.

It's a room, in  
camera with polyester,  
fluorescence, aluminum  
Park squirrels bioswarm th fibreglass  
everybody knows it's inebriating  
There's alutnarat  
U wake one morning Phyllis  
Diller wrestles a lion, familial reunion, then

voluminous fire gulfs or engorges  
th community centre Local bricks  
with explosive bellies arrow  
Toxic smoke talks abt how lovable we r it  
won't shut up but exudes ...

different  
deeffinrt  
tnereffid

Rows of chairs engrommetted in a factory  
backroom so workers can surf  
*People* online n chew Nicorettes It's  
adolescent lemur stuck in th stall  
sideways Flock of  
cormorants n juice boxes  
donated by Nestlé Sleeves bleached  
properly Antihistamines distributed  
impressive Seniors paying federal  
taxes without question.

I so enjoy breathing alongside  
a scenario of refuge when 2 zoo-born  
giraffes go up in a figure 8  
firework, limegreen leaf bits  
showering a petite rainfall on  
my April hairless forearm.

We r as abelov as Nature is.

There r flecks of sanguinity in our sideburned  
quietude, dusky institched voices while mature elk herds  
ligature the building lobbing homeopathy against  
multiple extinction rumours This Dictaphone  
this Morse  
this Spirograph Kaypro n Letraset  
peel black its backing  
then poster Burn ur bra  
Take back th night Hold others 2 sluggish  
account Believe in rainforest  
4 th trees 4 what they r  
bringing in –



In bringing in this gorilla  
which lurches in2 soliloquy  
This gorilla's bewildered  
This gorilla has a body so different  
it can't b in th room  
lacking or having  
a strand of esophagus  
garnished in something timid  
If it could b, it would arise that way, but I think we agree  
it cannot.

GIRL IN PARK WITH HULA

Haey, u know  
who is watching, hippie-girl. I fit inz  
u like a waist  
inside a hoop yahe yaeh hyae  
Famous waist, a  
hula hoop, she loves u  
ahye haye yeah.

If melancholia, or pleasure, encircles, with its rhythmhtyhr  
n its ringingnignir  
as long as it is gnivomoving, it  
displaces a plain 1970s telling.

But I don't think melancholia, or  
pleasure, is th problem exactly. I'm thinking

ur summoning a park  
around that hoop, n a city  
around that park, n concentric rings of wifi around that city  
n well y wouldn't u with those magique  
contempo-hips

which r a nuisance

th multitudes want 2 ride under, actually, I'm not dead yet, sister,  
or have u riding us.

After all, bodies beckon bodies with their gninaomoaning.

I wonder if th immediate seesaw ng of th present

in a half-kempt hipster park

is th hula hyae ehay heay

is th hoop that

rather than encircling u

keeps ur cunt far from th commons, 4

we know it's not just me on my rickety bench, a *poet* 4 god's sake,

performing something really special n

retro.

THE FOLLOWING USER

[SAYS THANK YOU TO MN RENOVATOR FOR THIS USEFUL POST:]

Warm air: A = in, B = in. Hot water: A = out,  
B = in. Electric: A = in, B = out. Turns on th blower

as soon as flames 4 heat. From a drafty back study  
central exposed front room well away from th windows.

I was having exactly th same old n malfunctioning  
problem. Ur own personal load-test data is maybe switching

some pre-set limit. Don't forget is something  
we should do right LOL. So there I go re-engineering a gizmo

that isn't broken again with short plenum 8 cm below  
th damped-off joints. Colder air is denser more oxygen

n slits fresh. Inducer has vibration 2 it but I cranked  
2 Hi. I just KNOW somebody's going 2 tell me 2 check

th manual.

IT'S LIKE I COULD DO SOMETHING

*for Lena Dunham*

it's like i could do something with my voice i couldn't do b4 because it's not clear 2 me y i should feel any differently n besides i paid 4 this with my own money i earned it ergo it's mine / there's some consistency u just want 2 watch out 4 if u r th bad friend so much harder than comfortable n dripping abt th waistline since anyone over 18 has th option of a buy-back plan / put those words out there n i'm not responsible 4 their blank lotto tickets n vandalized subway stations / simple statements like a hangover jog up an offseason boardwalk or like th stench of lilies around easter *yecch* chisel my patience / th point was impropriety – urs – being kissed at dusk n loving it so th junkie downstairs cd hear everything that was messy n inarticulate regarding major plans 4 th webcam / th other thing u need 2 know right abt now is that i might b extricating myself from this collapsing resto deal as a person has 2 stay in th clear n narrow of their own generational aspirations / a person has only those near around him 2 care 4 when it comes right down 2 that last commuter train 2 th end of th line that crosses over its own shortcut

i hope i'm not unmaking myself invisible!

i hope i'm erasing what u liked abt me because it's suffocating 2 b tender n in ur fat spot with e-readers you've propagated across th sunrise in a whole other time zone *in a whole other time zone* when rates r lowest n several custodians here r eating canned macaroni that's seriously putrid / there's abt 15 minor phonetical conjunctions i might lift n resuscitate in an entirely gutted soho gallery space but have 2 say there's a lot on my mind that u can't necessarily hear me thinking – u just have 2 trust me on that one like u just have 2 trust my sense of timing n my pretty excellent

boundaries