

# Leaf Weather

by shira dentz

This edition published in the United Kingdom in 2012 by  
Shearsman Books  
50 Westons Hill Drive  
Emersons Green  
Bristol  
BS16 7DF

Shearsman Books Ltd Registered Office  
30–31 St. James Place, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9JB  
(this address not for correspondence)

[www.shearsman.com](http://www.shearsman.com)

ISBN 978-1-84861-227-3

Copyright © Shira Dentz, 2009.

The right of Shira Dentz to be identified as the author  
of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with the  
Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act of 1988.  
All rights reserved.

*Leaf Weather* was first published in 2009 by  
*Tilt Press*  
9309 Plashet Lane  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28227  
U.S.A.  
[www.tiltpress.com](http://www.tiltpress.com)

This edition appears by arrangement with *Tilt Press*.

## Contents

"Love's the art imagined by desire"	1
anatomy	2
what transforms a white bough, for instance ►►	3
watercolor tongue	4
X	5
so	6
A Brook Somewhere Goes Against a White Mountain Discipline	7
and now for contemplation	10
Black Flowers	13
<i>Sing to me, sing to me too</i>	17
& starting to see unleafed	18
Leaf Weather	20
angular gyrus	21
banana chips	22
3 sexograms	23
Let the possum go	25
sunslips	27

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the editors of the journals in which the following poems first appeared:

*Bird Dog*: 'A Brook Somewhere Goes Against a White Mountain Discipline,' 'X'

*Bombay Gin*: 'and now for contemplation,' 'banana chips,' 'sunslips'

*Denver Quarterly*: 'what transforms a white bough, for instance ►►'

*Drunken Boat*: 'Black Flowers'

*Electronic Poetry Review*: 'Leaf Weather,' '& starting to see unleafed'

*English Language Notes*: 'Let the possum go'

*jubilat*: 'angular gyros,' 'Love's the art imagined by desire'

*Laurel Review*: '3 sexograms'

*LIT*: 'anatomy'

*New Orleans Review*: 'Sing to me, sing to me too'

*Tarpaulin Sky*: 'so,' 'watercolor tongue.'

'Leaf Weather' received the *Electronic Poetry Review's* Discovery Award.

*Special thanks to the editors at Tilt Press, especially Rachel Malino Fowley, and to Shearsman Books' Editor, Tony Frazer..*

## Leaf Weather



## **“Love’s the art imagined by desire”**

The blue picnic table

collapsed after I felt something round and soft under my foot and jumped away it was an apple

skeleton under my foot and jumped away it was an apple what is it greengreengreen-greengreengreen

structured splitting legs rope devil-may-care large elemental picture  
to be scarred eyes tired gobbley gook did a branch is breathing as it lifts  
and falls ever so slightly the prairie bordered by trees semicircle  
a wood fence sun lowering sound of wind in the prairie

branches like ink the thing looking like

a drawing instead of the of of of of of leaves make us discover our inwardness  
in such rooms one has the feeling time has stopped

“the ink the wind “the earth cast the sound like to

bequeath a phrase or an image falls ever so that is it was an apple  
what is it greengreen curve of it lifts and leaves make crickets  
drawing of dreams lacuna a handful of of the prairie bordered splitting  
now

## **anatomy**

the boy fromside to side plays hide and seek maybe seesaw    what do we  
kiss    aboard the train    keep    those tips on    slide the doors open  
feel a love-twist but it's not gonna happen what good is silence    they don't  
mean to but men gotta show boss    desire yellow on the burner heat on lo not  
even enough for the usual boil-hiss basically tepidshimmyshit the apex of noon  
are they singing a choir developing fromlaughter to song stars diamond chips  
swimming in the water everyone agrees lunar ah venus make no mistakes with  
your orange yellow pencil and eraser top  
(pink).

are they singing or laughing or clapping back to desire young young how do i  
net thee with my shredded heels no i don't want to look humpty dumpty had a  
great fall for heaven sakes



## what transforms a white bough, for instance ►►

let's make some word water two parts salt one part light influenced by the  
moon junkie streamlined take a cup and fill it that lemon scent in the  
outdoors air a skirt of pine trees draped along mountains     *Certain Posturings*  
*Are Allowed*, the sign says     & Queen of the Snow, a church (though some  
may say another kind of temple) rocks insideandout no dark skinned here just  
snow shake it slim it it's legit yeah got sound but somethin particular don't  
know anyone can do is makin love with rocks like gathering wild animals  
shadows shined raised and pitted

## watercolor tongue

tongue fork     ) haleehaleehaleea bunch of leaves blowing telephone  
lines through glasslikewater grass     a nasal voice in the lighthouse birds  
whistling seems you have to be broken from making sense     how can  
you keep the trees from ruffling like cloth     line grooves in a tree  
now the leaves kiss

excess verbiage caw caw caw *why* in three letters the bird whistles droop-  
ing leaves breast chirpings     yesterday biked on a trail in a forest with  
deer it would be perfect, once again, with a man. my head could race,  
maybe did one too many now it's coming back how i asked what's your  
schedule. i'll have to look, he said. *why* did i bother. in a watermelon  
claw, green shades and sunset flesh.

branches leaves     lace     in the breeze  
majestic green pepper green     watermelon stripes, variations in skin  
tone     *why* the latch trees like animals     well have to say my body's  
ready to serve or be served     more hidden usually but sunlight now an  
almond sliver     *the who-who-who in back of everything*     want to make  
suction cups out of the bluegreenyellow air.     one-eyed.  
lightshowers. glucose plastic wrap green pink baubles shiny fish ribbon  
together ping ding tap the baseball cap what's up w/that?

as the teenagers said, can't stop doing things because of the past.

into the tunnel     an' outagain     strawberry red mountains spotted  
with emerald trees     caviar for the beasts     rock grain a gray black  
elephant skin     tree trunks

water tongues on land here  
there

blue no incidental color

sunlight a different beast now someone wakes up  
early pagoda steam of his tea rising sharp not what i'm used to a knife  
cutting no sadness in this sparkle white

## X

whom do i love best in the world the  
heat lovely young blondes no way order can come round but hot pasta listen to  
the talk out there      canned peaches      well wait a second      read the paper  
what can you do about fear well      fear      of the future but what kind of cake  
does that make sunny and all paper plate frosting as if to say ho ho follow the  
.twine.

candlestick lowers into moonshine shitshine forever      shine  
a usual question      four stars      start here      people folding back indoors  
mists of      aqua sage      netted bridal veils      or aqua fingers      hands      on  
the dirt brown plains

to hell with springy yellow

no don' wanna think about any of those  
relationships tables in the drawer feet on the sill catapult to nowhere rescue me  
will you?

shoulda come up here to begin with  
the sky dead no it ain't it's blue tile  
well      what it feel like bein' in that landscape endlessly?

imagine that sun a lemon rinse hon  
come pick up your oranges the mountains dark gray triangles      what're you  
lookin at no i don't have my place in the sky      fog closes the white ecstasy fog  
a close cousin to the spider web