

Twist of Address

Also by Spencer Selby:

Poetry

Task

The Big R

No Island

House of Before

Barricade

Instar

Art/Visual Poetry

Problem Pictures

Malleable Cast

Stigma

Criticism

Dark City: The Film Noir

SPENCER SELBY

Twist of Address

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Only one thing matters: learning to be the loser.

E.M. Cioran

In the age-old image of ouroboros lies the thought of devouring oneself and turning oneself into a circulatory process, for it was clear to the more astute alchemists that the prima materia of the art was man himself.

Carl Jung

*And truth is anybody's argument
Who can use words untruthfully enough
To build eternity inside his own short mouth*

Laura Riding

After Rain Talk

After rain talk
the street is dry

In the act you smile
as obvious as dominance
crushing backbone
tracing jawline vertigo

So help me dear
I don't know why

(the view is rough
on standards lost
to mass appeal)

I thought I did but
power failed and
specialists left town
with nothing special

On the way back
I told a story
and caught you
staring into space

Absent where you
shouldn't be
Tired when it only
gets symbolic and
produces more of the same

I can't verbalize
what you don't allow

I can't answer what you
suffered long ago

I was thinking
you look good
in a raincoat made of
fabric that's invisible

I was thinking
the weather is bad
with no meaning equal to
a cloud we can't
escape from

I was thinking
words are falling and
we're lucky to survive

Medusa

Parable, pretense, cliché
find their way into each new
creation of the day

Fresh breeze overtaken by
anything off my table

Makes me summary surface
fragile embrace self-awareness
purgative for guilt considering
time spent watching and listening

Mood argument becomes this
Deep roots destroy vertical
when the bell rings unforgettable

I pick up across twenty years
I say hello behind stop and go

Parable, pretense, cliché
find their way after being exposed

feel my mouth, my voice
detail glory of obsolete
fire burning out of control

Abstauben

Trust matter bound to merge

Feature nobody proves accurate

Guides crossing economic

Found outrageous restraint

Opportunity despite entrance

Bunch of sleeping deadline

Mute positive request

Full sail repeat thread

Leaving sunset at risk

Indulge gravity elbow

By abrupt rehearsal to health

By unaware gossip imply

Slip and stress syndrome

Should bring critic sublime

Touch version forgotten

Right past signal changes

Response control clearing

Psyche to island trunks

Heat front stirring blue

Ribs in pain overdone

Targets meeting in isolation

Abandon manifest courage

Issue taken with privilege

Mutual tender crowded

Thrill of intense nuance

Looming languor result uptown

Scorch observatory complex

Smudge remaining ideal

Certain tentative verdict

Flood precise nerve comma

Fool weight of compensation

Wary beseeching maze

For the duration regroup

Convert another expression

Examine acid generous

Insinuate real damage

Nourish character dilemma

Limit reading about escape

Apply solution at temple

Turn difficult confessing

Average gone curious

Austere moment to celebrate

Borrow own affection

Uncanny but funny as balloon

Future reminder in pursuit

Absorbing place interrupt

Perspective without reason

Solo run out of memory

Double spotted robe size

What conditions will carry

Best among wry smitten

Under duress feel ceiling

Envelope stamp variety

Reverse angle dedicated

Eye doubt gently dazzling

Eccentric sudden implant from afar