A
Revolutionary
Calendar
Previous publications by Zoë Skoulding

This Way Under (Seren, 2019)
Teint (Hafan Books, 2017)
The Museum of Disappearing Sounds (Seren, 2013)
Remains of a Future City (Seren, 2008)
Dark Wires [with Ian Davidson] (West House Books, 2007)
From Here [with Simonetta Moro] (Dusie, 2008)
The Mirror Trade (Seren, 2004)
Tide Table (Gwasg Pantycelyn, 1998)
Zoë Skoulding

A Revolutionary Calendar

Shearsman Books
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SAMPLER
Vendémiaire
1. *Raisin*  Grape

the city trickles down your throat in blood
swallowed days swallow you crushed
you leave your trace in the season mutating

what state is not
a state of change stand up

2. *Safran*  Saffron

crushed yellow stains
your fingers from stamen
to sunset to gold

in this struggle the trace of
a head or a planet turning

3. *Châteaignes*  Chestnut

after the summer comes a glut
of chestnuts blackened in fire
erupting a shell cracks

between thumb and finger
if it looks like a brain eat it

4. *Colchique*  Autumn Crocus

a crack in the bulb a clean start
and late green light spring on repeat
goes naked and leafless

round and round and
falling into storms we hold together
5. *Cheval*  Horse

there came a white horse
or was it a grey pony
lost in its own name

    or the edge of a wave
repeating nothing

6. *Balsamine*  Touch-me-not balsam

scatter wide in the insurgency
quick in the hand
a seedpod

    explodes nothingness
in the human system of a garden

7. *Carrotte*  Carrot

scrape earth from skin
where bright sugar
seeps through that other

    taste of what’s come up
from underneath

8. *Amaranthe*  Amaranth

this red means nothing
if you’ve forgotten hunger
a handful of seeds spitting in the pan

    after all the burnings
where love lies bleeding
9. *Panais*  Parsnip

at root is an idea you can’t know
in the dark only taste is it sweet
how do you tell

what should have been buried
and what keeps what must keep pushing back

10. *Cuve*  Vat

while tomorrow’s wine is sleeping
tap out yesterday’s rhythm
that tomorrow no longer believes

in which every tomorrow
is better than today

11. *Pommes de Terre*  Potatoes

scrabble under the skin of earth
for the starch, pearl, mud apple and ask

what future lies under the skin
of the seasons you can still decipher
or the darknesses you can still count

12. *Immortelle*  Strawflower

you can still shine yellow
dry to a papery thinness

not the flower but the dead
shape of its idea still gleaming
indestructible
13. *Potiron*  Squash

a gouged out gourd a sunset
what were you dreaming of

coming and going a movement
accomplished at sixes and sevens
return sunrise

14. *Réséda*  Mignonette

belief in sky is what holds it up
roots hidden deep in the sun

only heady scent escapes the fight
between the yellow you once knew
in these ragged petals

15. *Âne*  Donkey

ears tuned forwards a pull on a back hoof
a footing lost and found

always change
moving through fur and lashes
a smoking muzzle

16. *Belle de nuit*  Marvel of Peru

who has your attention and what’s it worth
in the stretched-out hours

she comes in colours
steps into night’s movement
where darkness is increased by one
17. *Citrouille*  Pumpkin

time to turn into another  
sunset globe hold steady

    after all what do I know about  
where this carriage is heading  
with its windows all on fire

18. *Sarrazin*  Buckwheat

even grain doesn’t escape otherness  
a dark seed an unstable element

    the time doesn’t come  
as if arriving from somewhere else  
you move and it’s what you are

19. *Tournesol*  Sunflower

roll a ring of flame against the sky  
as earth turns on a point of light

    this uncertain hope  
takes more than one  
blazing head


that was god’s blood in the winepress then printers’ ink  
pressed down in the word made flesh

    more blood in the economy  
won’t save anyone  
 it’s time for leverage
21. *Chanvre*  Hemp

laid out in dew where colonies of mould

     advance in flecks on steel-grey fibre
cleaning and brightening
this work of loss not us
a rope against the troubles

22. *Pêches*  Peaches

the day you’re dreaming of is already here

     a bloom of down settles on the news
as chlorophyll degrades and love
costs nothing as it ripens
a darker pigmentation coming through

23. *Navets*  Turnip

in place of a planet

     turning purple
red or greenish glazed
she remembered turnips
the room grew smaller

24. *Amarillis*  Amaryllis

what’s the point of shepherding

     lost names Amaryllis
a tangle in the air
all bitterness and glitter
gaudy bloom
25. *Boeuf*  Steer

lurches at the grid

a flank scored into
cuts of gendered meat he doesn’t know
his weight shifts tremulous
in grass and muscle hot breath

26. *Aubergine*  Aubergine

yes but can you read what it says

not the pale flesh
tracing round the seed like faint letters
but the tissues of knowledge
not your own

27. *Piment*  Chili Pepper

who or what inflicts it

pain is red
is too simple a diagnosis
for the edge of feeling you can’t reach
between kiss and pepper spray

28. *Tomate*  Tomato

translation ripples a supply chain

from wolf peach to golden apple
water grows fat on capital
I say truncation of ACC synthase
you say endless summer