A Confusion

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OF LIVING



Rupert Loydell

A Confusion of Living

otata's bookshelf 2019

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When the mind's an empty moon
The clear days come.

– Wendell Berry, The Clear Days

Low Life

squatting and hanging out leave you feeling dirty anger beginning to bite

IDEAS OF TIME & SPACE

not only misguided but pretentious a new symbolic object no matter what the meaning

ABSENCE

the body closed off from others a series of particularly personal letters she began to weep hysterically

THE WORD MEMORY

waymarkers in a cognitive map pulled taut and stretched indefinitely closed spaces populated by nomads

A SINGLE CONTEXT

growing up on the future we sat defiantly in our cars all of the words spoken

THE PICTURE BEGINS TO COHERE

the real interpreter of experience might be god overshadowed look me straight in the eye

THE ACTIVE IMAGINATION

a time of dramatic tension pinpricks of light in a patch of darkness nature is not so mechanistic

CLEAR AND BRIGHT

the popular response idle and luxurious irrelevances a more tender voice

SCRUTINISE THE DARKNESS

establishing a protective distance reconstruction of the cityscape hard work but revelatory

DEFINE THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT

watching a story being told absorbing even echoes of narrative forcing myself towards the use of images

AUTOMATIC LANDING SYSTEM

forgiven for feeling powerful instinctively nervous about like a double negative

BURNED PAPERS

our story is becoming lost a muttered construction of doubt we must be confident in our path

My Own History

the black square to the left and the black painting hung next to it are different from each other

WITHOUT SOME SENSE

the journey to understanding seemingly impossible how far away the ends of the earth

INDETERMINATE FORM

the past can be fully intelligible scooping up water with a spoon bringing us all into harbour

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMAGES

it is about retention seeds of new memories things we have never seen

BASIC GESTURES

witness the destruction they can do nothing have to be restrained

A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED

thrown out of the museum an element of wonder from the moment she awoke

VOICES PUNCTUATED BY WHISPERS

a painfully unsettled score faces that passed through our lives compared with the purity of silence

EMPTY DELIVERANCE

our future has been stolen stand above the past carve an aesthetic of insurrection

Fun to be Alive

a magic lantern show can't remember how it happened nor the place it was

New Megastructure

evacuated and bombed out we roamed the streets jittery with anticipation

PLOTTING IN EARNEST

chalked across the ceiling every word has meaning you have to say it for others

Word of Mouth

on the other side of the world things going on all the time people hear stories

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

a confusion of living lost myself there avoiding my reflection

DANGEROUS CHEMICAL REACTIONS

the last link in a chain a trick done with mirrors the sun itself ablaze

THE RETURN

not only the backdrop but foreground opportunities taken and missed a retreat into fantasy land

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

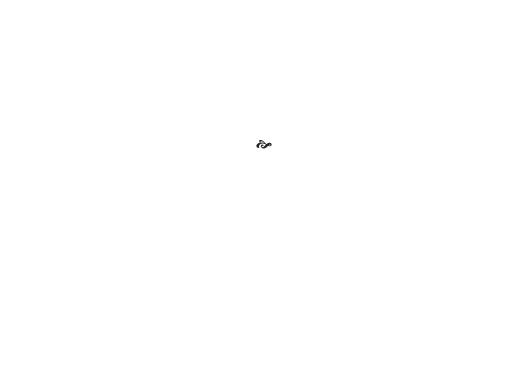
lured by curiosity and desire the hollow construction of love little wounds are the most painful

SIGNIFIERS OF DECAY

chalk dust on my fingertips symbols painted on broken windows prayers before childhood meals

CRACKLY LANGUAGE

a machine renewed sermons about the state of the world never learnt when to shut up



'What is a poet? A fabricator who understands that "it does not matter what things are, only what the relationship between them is".' Everyone is confronted daily with dozens of seemingly unrelated moments; often one doesn't bother to dwell on most of them. Moments come, moments go, only those that seem to create a compelling context stick in our minds. [...] Loydell's work evokes the intertextuality of the language of poetry and the language of painting and photography. This is the language os seeing and recording discontinuities, incongruenceies, contextual realities, not as an observer, but as someone firmly rooted in the many contexts of language.'

- Andrea Moorhead

'Loydell, an acute observer and adept interpreter, is always open to fluency and nuance in these rewarding poems.'

- Martyn Halsall

Rupert Loydell is Senior Lecturer in English with Creative Writing at Falmouth University, the editor of Stride magazine, and a contributing editor to *international times*. He is the author of many collections of poetry, including *Dear Mary, The Return of the Man Who Has Everything, Wildlife and Ballads of the Alone,* all published by Shearsman Books. He edited *Smartarse* and co-edited *Yesterday's Music Today* for Knives Forks & Spoons Press, *From Hepworth's Garden Out: poems about painters and St. Ives* for Shearsman, and *Troubles Swapped for Something Fresh*, an anthology of manifestos and unmanifestos, for Salt. He lives with his family in a creekside village in Cornwall.