

*rebar, bared bones*

Cecily Nicholson

i.

rebar, bared bones in spalling infrastructure  
tone of a place in ongoing crises of water

state delirious—it's all this or nothing—fatigue  
melts of semi-coherent poetry homes  
puttering things to do, things to do once there is  
a timeless day of almost pure concentration  
to unpluck neural machinery from the bone spurs

grown hermitage of thrushes banded  
to a flutter of juncos at the end of the year  
*we had nothing, we had nothing but grasshoppers*

vintage post-modern strip malls, ubiquity and mutation  
modes of public surveillance wayside water blues against  
lightly snowed fields flowed to a painful airport edge

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ii.

inquest weave warp custody slave-owner

philosophy tries to sleep past her brown body glory

fresh arrest graveyard shift incommunicado

in detention with no natural light or fresh air  
on the block in

prison, an inappropriate facility

a frustrating removal! [smiley face emoticon]

set sun still seas the pock-marked moon

each follicle motion once flowed through,

the pattern of hair on the bathroom floor.

service arteries. systems interpolate sharp utility

iii.

corpuscular rays alight  
throng of tracks  
five cars beside the tender  
new high speeds  
four-lanes and turnpikes future  
looked bright in-  
deed time you'd work to buy a  
car romance  
of the road road is life call  
of open  
road objects source of beauty  
blight lodging  
market standards desire  
get away  
navigate vagabond trips  
choosing roads intermodal  
waterways  
paths were wagon roads single-  
minded con-  
quest of spur line and through lines  
railroad lives  
great immigration refuge  
convoy for  
mutual protection mired  
in meaning  
livery horses power  
finning fly-  
wheel and vanadium steel then  
as now the  
durable tires key to  
victory  
racing the Bonneville salt flats

iv.

listening to yarns feelin seasons change  
truck trailer model of efficiency  
delivery at the speed of electricity  
four-cylinder front-wheel drive  
the new world car the universal  
car and compass a cat among ponies  
the hot one marriage of style and power  
style meets utility style as progress  
machines become art at the fair pavilion  
demonstrate landscape built for cars  
great multitude communicates without  
wires tend to rattle apart puncture-proof  
tires on the road trailing proof of tires  
come away with me passenger comfort  
ground corrugates strengthens rigidity  
investment snarl in a fledgling industry  
spruce, ash, cotton and steel cable crash-  
landing wings to lift and move forward  
reliable control power of success formula  
fabric running to freedom the ultimate  
as every Ontario white relation related  
to Ford or the company post-slavery point  
of view sees seceded formally withdrawn  
and far from diluted milk gruel coming  
up the long road north from cotton fields

v.

rally. rally the call of colour beyond  
segregated set part determined

*the time had just come when I was pushed  
as far as I could be pushed. I had had enough*

mechanized time was production  
synchronizing worker material machinery clocks

useful ornamental differences  
master and apprentice

press. press pushes inky type to the paper  
failure form spokes driven into hubs

machinists have an aura about them  
a north american system  
getting into tradition  
settling pots and pans

rock. rock emerges past dem  
crazy blues – mania  
downhearted blues – smite  
born free until the last breath

is fine knives,  
tomahawks, fowling pieces  
semi-automatic action of factory long arms  
early repeating arms won't take the bail out, just  
auctioned everything off right down to the bare logo

*there's your watermelon Lilian*  
the whole van mm hmms  
when parched soil yields linear lay-ins' green

every splash of water the simplest form, gesture  
the action of the poses or movement between, forms

Cecily Nicholson

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