

PROJECT PAPERS

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MAUREEN OWEN

TWO POEMS

Syntactical

or clouds like dried ink on transparent paper

the doctors said
they wanted her to live out the year normally

you know what she told them
"I'll live as long as I want - just watch me!"

She owns
83 cows
5 horses
23 chickens
11 ducks

And she does it all by herself or

She has 2 hired-hands
Jim & Dave

& Jim is just gorgeous
I saw a picture of him

* *

How ridiculous to still be speaking English
winter was everywhere what we did merely
called attention to what we didn't do You
see that meadow it was put there by a seizure
of nature snow saturated with dusk fortress
& fulcrum loft and reservoir intention &

distress one thing and another this & that shell

& busted the tide sucked out to the
smooth flat plain chaos underneath cleanliness

above

SONIA SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA: SPRING, 1985

1.

/a phila. fireman reflects after
seeing a decapitated body in the **MOVE** ruins/

to see those eyes
orange like butterflies
over the walls.

i must move away
from this little-ease
where the pulse
shrinks into itself
and carve myself in white.

O to press the seasons
and taste the quiet juice
of their veins.

2. /memory/

a.

Thus in the varicose town
where eyes splintered the night with glass
the children touched at random
sat in places where legions rode.

And O we watched the young birds
stretch the sky
until it streamed white ashes

and O we saw mountains lean on seas
to drink the blood of whales
then wander dumb with their wet bowels.

b.

Everywhere young
faces breathing in crusts.
breakfast of dreams.
The city, lit by a single fire,
followed the air into disorder.
And the sabbath stones singed our eyes
with each morning's coin.

c.

Praise of a cureless death they heard
without confessor;
Praise of cathedrals
pressing their genesis from priests;
Praise of wild gulls who came and drank
their summer's milk,
then led them toward the parish snow.

How still the spiderless city.
The earth is immemorial in death.

MOVE: a Philadelphia-based, back-to-nature group whose headquarters was bombed by the police on May 13, 1985, killing men, women and children. An entire city block was destroyed by fire.