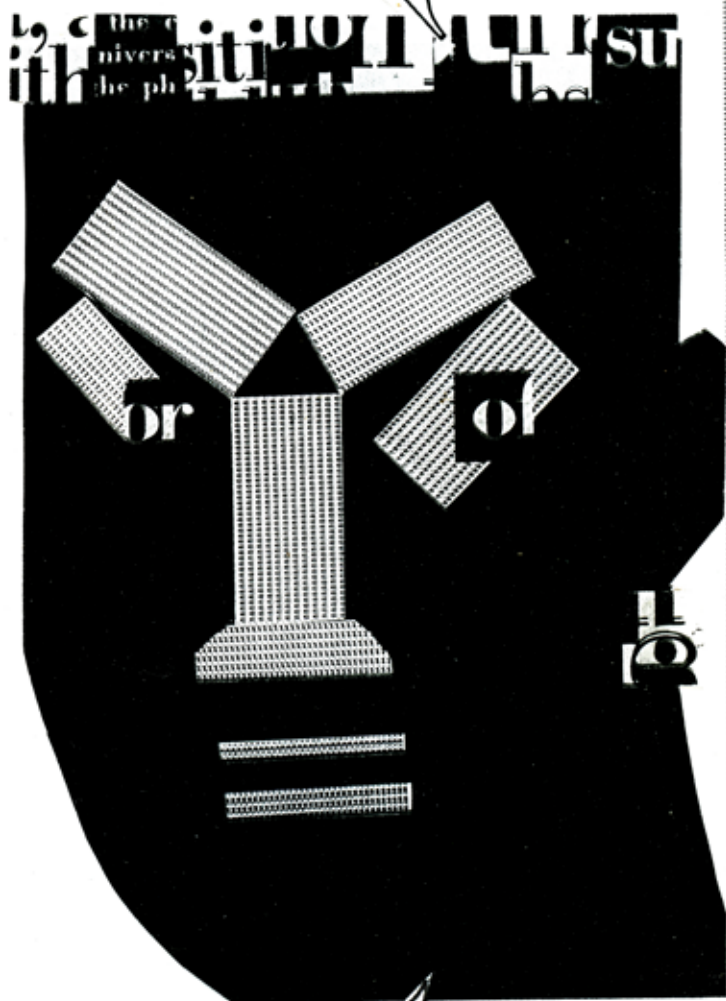


sphinx

Bill

Keith



sphinx

xerolage 23

VIVA AFRICA!

An Akan proverb states:

"Mefre Sika
Sika ngye so
Mefre Ntama,
Ntama ngye so.
Onipa ne asem.

I call Gold
Gold is mute.
I call Cloth,
Cloth is mute.
It is Mankind that matters."

The above quotation is from "A HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA" by Basil Davidson.

In the past Africa was referred to as "the sleeping giant" or "the dark continent." Today, however, it is anything but that. Its rich minerals, oil and gold is much sought after by the rest of the world. Its rich traditions, legends and culture has regaled the rest of the world. Africa can, metaphorically and literally be called the continent of light because of its unparalleled contrasts, unpolluted atmosphere and the clarity of its sunlight. This clarity of light has magnetized artists for many years. Delecroix, Matisse and Picasso as well as countless photographers have adored this light.

The mere uttering of African words and names is a kind of verbal music. Curiously, these words when spelled correctly have their own visual beauty and audible rhythm. For instance: Chad, Sudan, Tangier, Morocco, Zanzibar, Mauretania, Somalia, Senegal, Egypt, and the Congo. These countries, moreover, stretch far back into the legendary past, where fable and fact intertwine. As a visual poet I have sought to use these connotations and vibrations in my visual poetry.

The West African poets, called Griots, and who also are oral historians, usually sing or chant their praise poems while accompanying themselves with the stringed instrument called a Kora.

If we accept the findings of archeologist Louis Leaky who unearthed the oldest human fossils called ZINJANTHROPUS ERECTUS and HOMO HABILIS at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, we must also conclude that Africa is the motherland of all Mankind. We, every single one of us, are descendants of Africa.

Even today African stories of famine, political strife, coupes, civil wars besiege our Media. Today Africa is anything but the dark continent. It is the fabulous past---and the bright future.

VIVA AFRICA!

Bill Keith

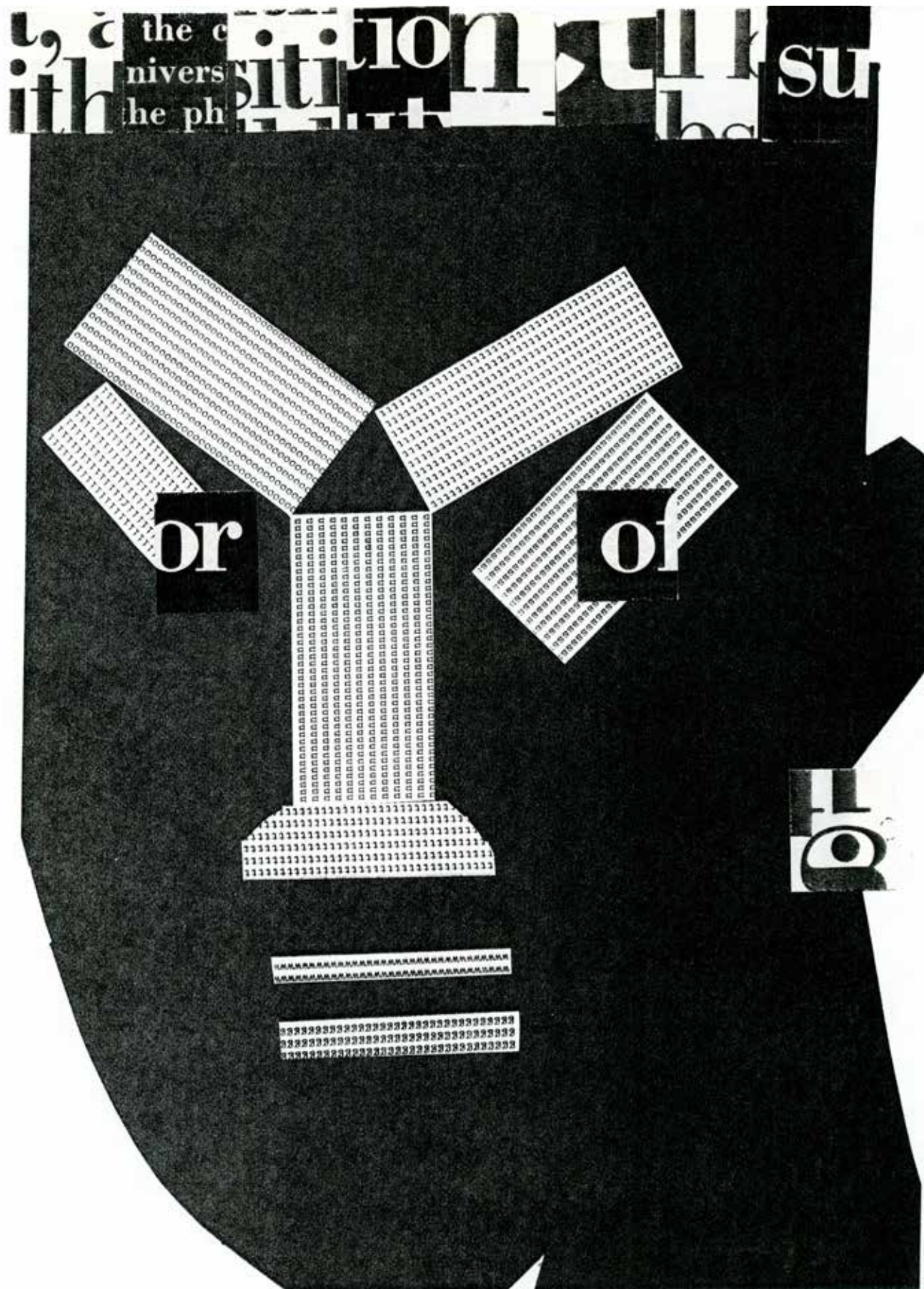
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Visual poetry, copy art & collage graphics, each issue devoted to the work of one artist. Xerolage is a word coined by mIEKAL aND to suggest the world of 8.5 x 11 art propagated by xerox technology. "The mimeo of the 80s." The primary investigation of this magazine is how collage technique of 20th century art, typography, computer graphics, visual & concrete poetry movements & the art of the xerox have been combined. 8.5x11, 24 pages each. Subscriptions \$24/4 issues. For overseas delivery, add \$15 for airmail printed matter.

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		the	the	
		poet	song	
		doric	poets	
		ballad	warble	
		builder	dancers	
		lutanist	saraband	
		i	o	
		am	be	
		the	the	
		word	seed	
		sower	grown	
		farmer	amidst	
		husband	rubbish	
		agripoet	cultures	
	o	time	slip	i
	be	voya	pery	am
	the	geur	fish	the
	tune	dive	swim	poet
	bards	deep	ming	doric
	warble	swim	thru	ballad
	dancers	thru	epic	builder
	saraband	grim	mind	minstrel
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be		emic	riff	i
the		alph	raff	am
seed		abet	muse	the
grown		seas	call	word
amidst		cast	iope	sower
rubbish		wide	real	farmer
cultures		your	poet	husband
		nets	lady	agripoet
		here	love	
		merm	buzz	
		aids	this	
		gaze	scal	
		gold	awag	
		eyed	bard	
		wily	pelt	
		song	this	
		idea	dull	
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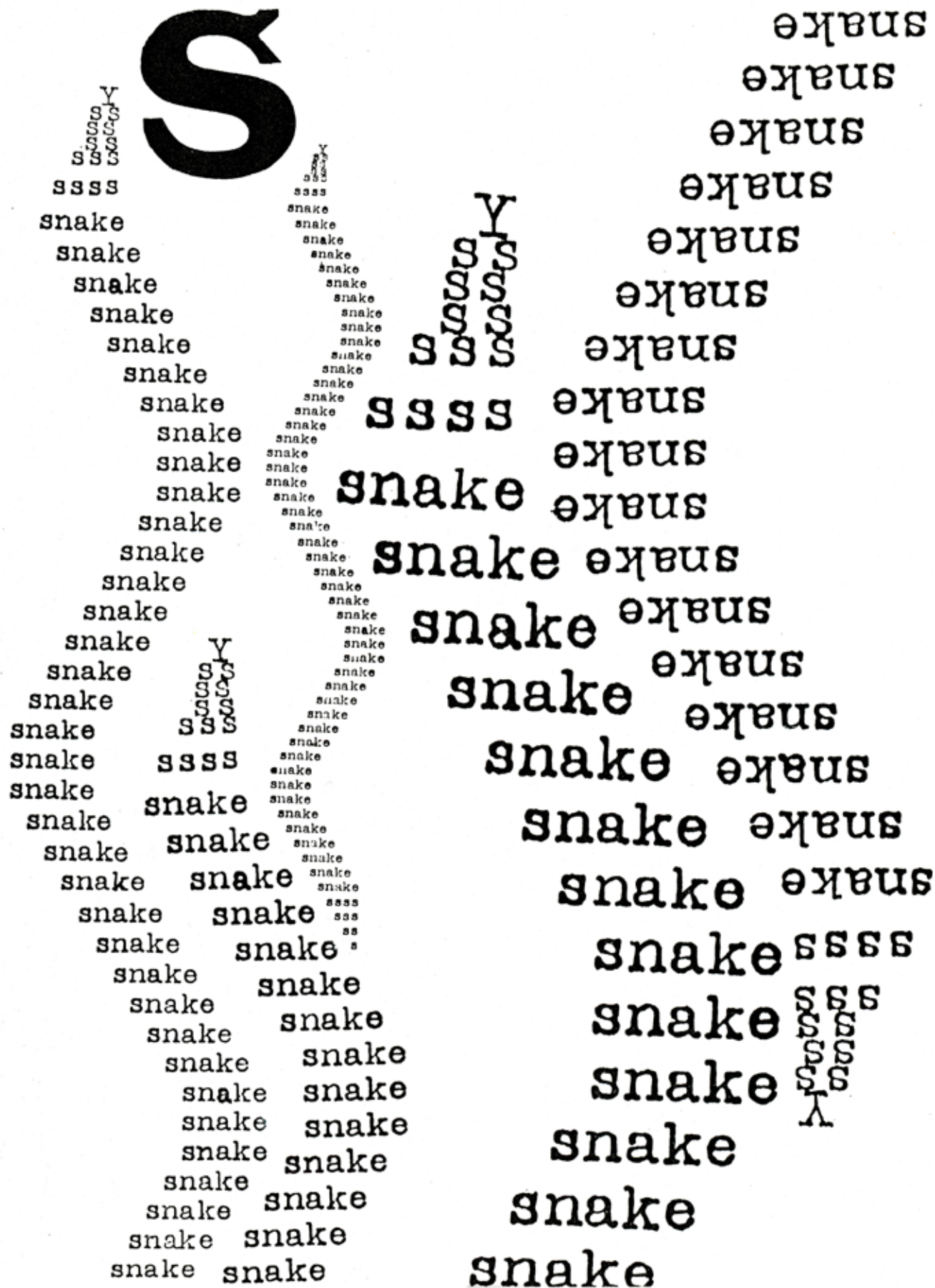
african design

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ancestral dancers

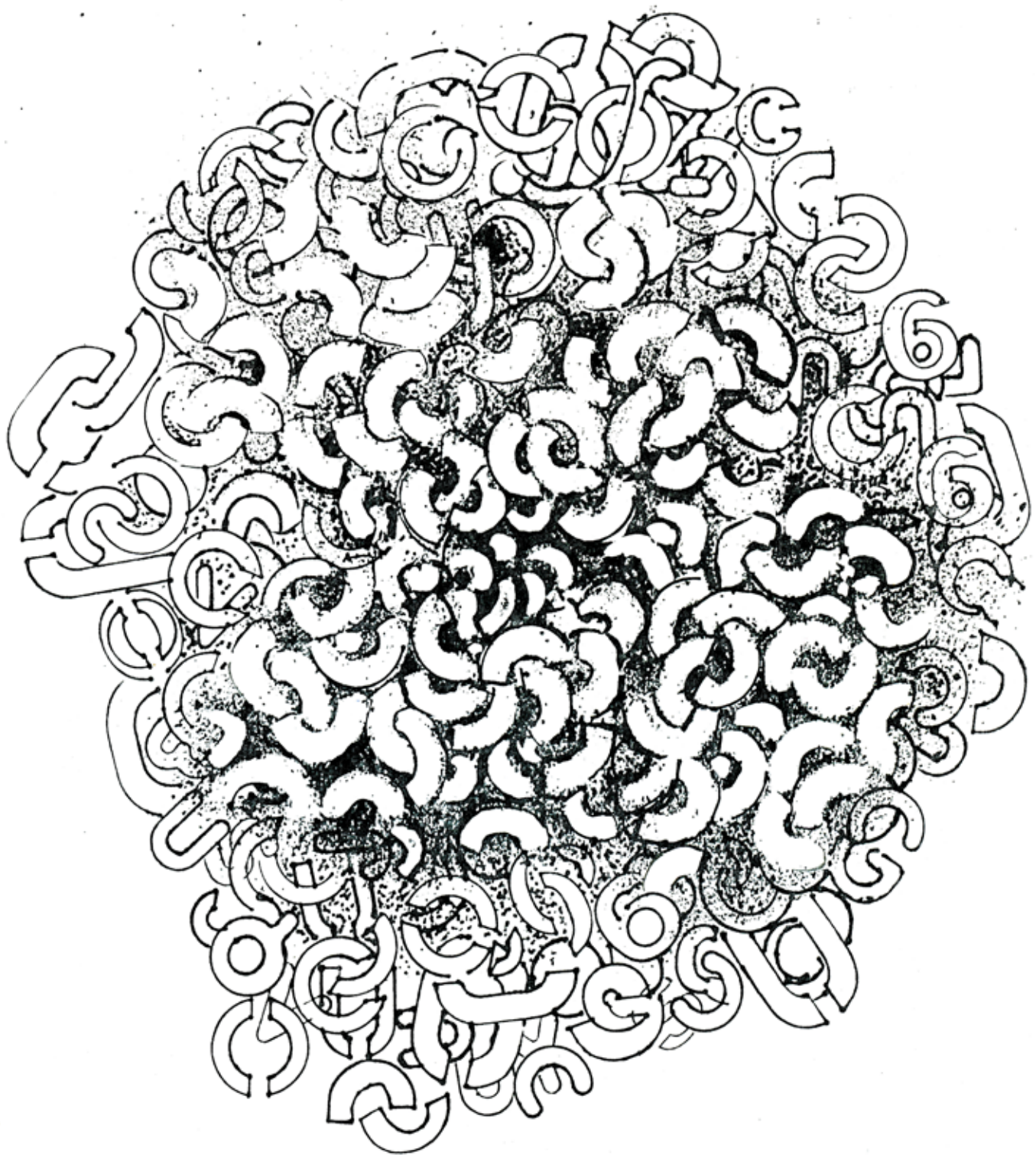
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ti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fan
nti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fa
anti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu f
fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu
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lu fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zu
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fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu
anti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu f
nti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fa
ti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fan
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i ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fant
ti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fan
nti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu fa
anti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu f
fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu
fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu
u fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zul
lu fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zu
u fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zul
fanti ashanti fulanli yoruba bantu pygmy watusi hausa wolof zulu

7

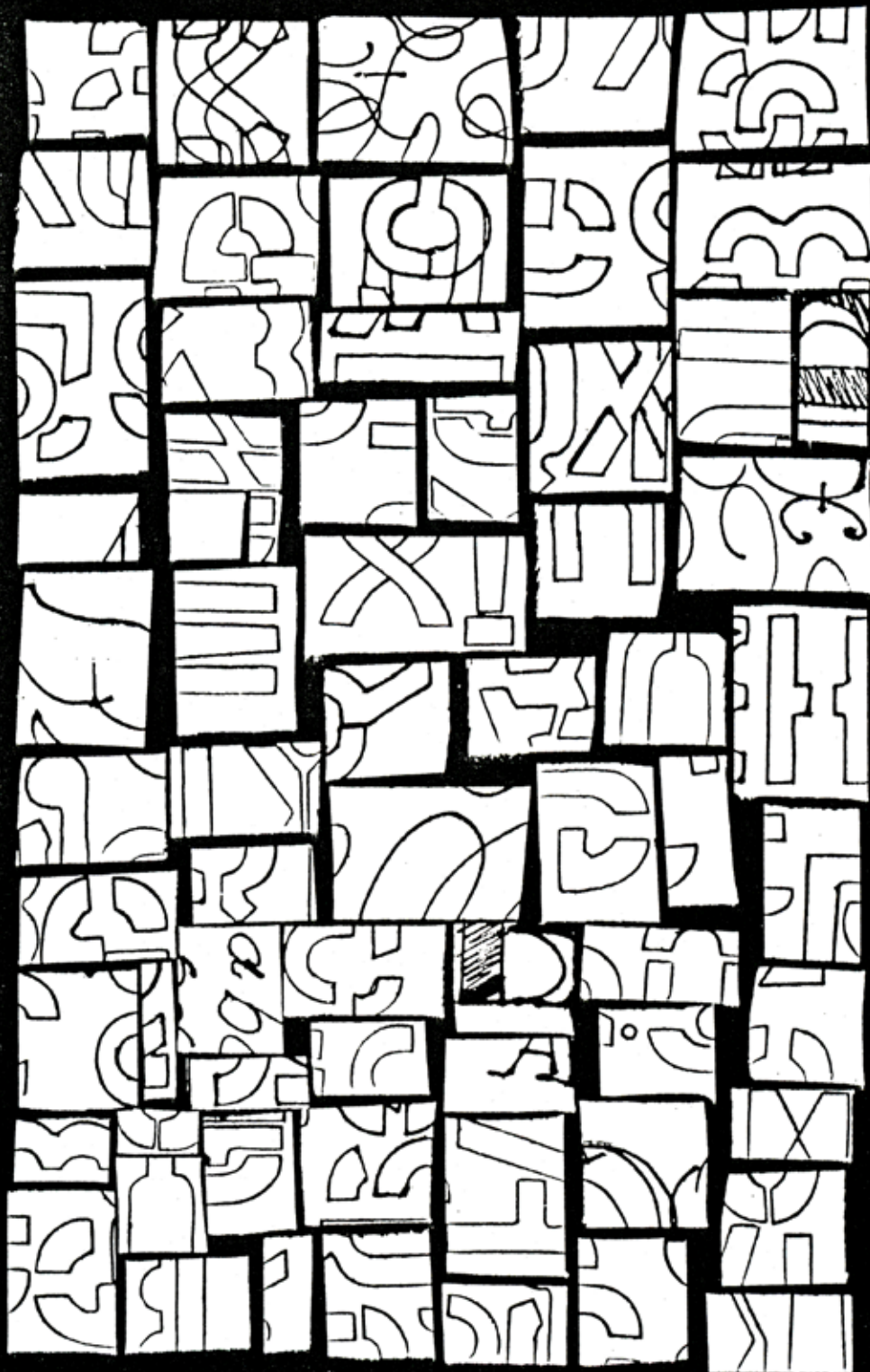


WHERE
ROSES
BLOOM

where	noses	bloom	wilde	magic
roses	smell	roses	lorca	faery
bloom	royal	where	tzara	poets
loamy	sacro	poets	jacob	sleep
earth	scent	brood	perse	where
grass	faery	music	assis	roses
green	flora	rests	dario	bloom
leafs	quiet	rouge	hughs	rouge
spiky	poets	bells	marti	regal
thorn	awake	skull	moore	fleur
stick	homer	vibes	pound	being
helio	aesop	chime	eliot	seeds
trope	herme	solar	frost	earth
fleur	thoth	sound	rilke	clime
oozes	antar	roses	trakl	water
saint	bilal	awake	crane	ozone
blood	muuse	heine	wylie	souls
where	jimil	kafka	aiken	where
roses	mahdi	joyce	olson	roses
bloom	drake	yeats	plath	bloom
bedew	blake	eaPoe	where	lofty
faint	plato	keats	regal	poets
rouge	burns	jarry	roses	dance
aroma	stein	jouve	bloom	alone



LOGOS SPERMATIKOS



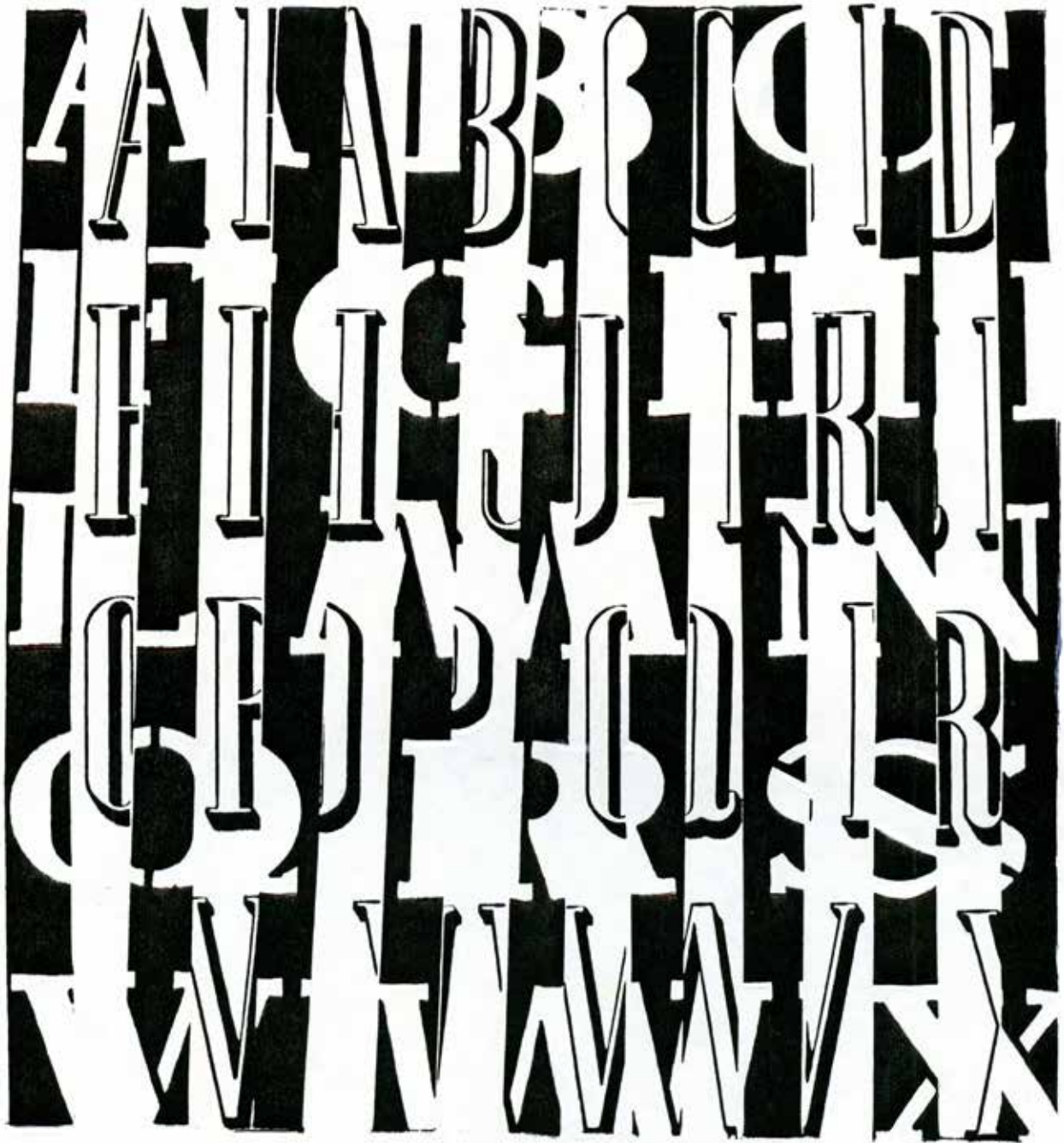




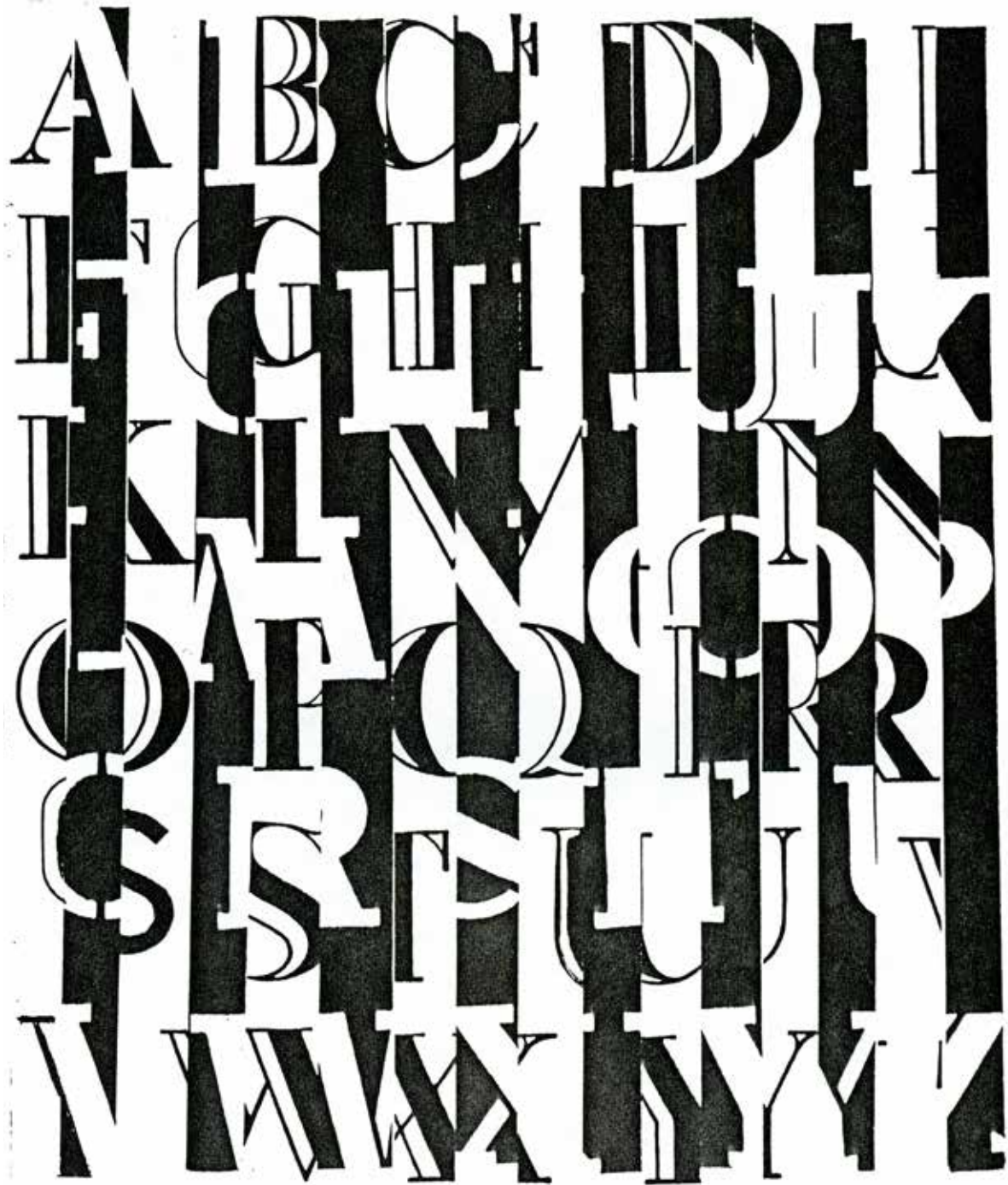
ALPHAGRAM 1

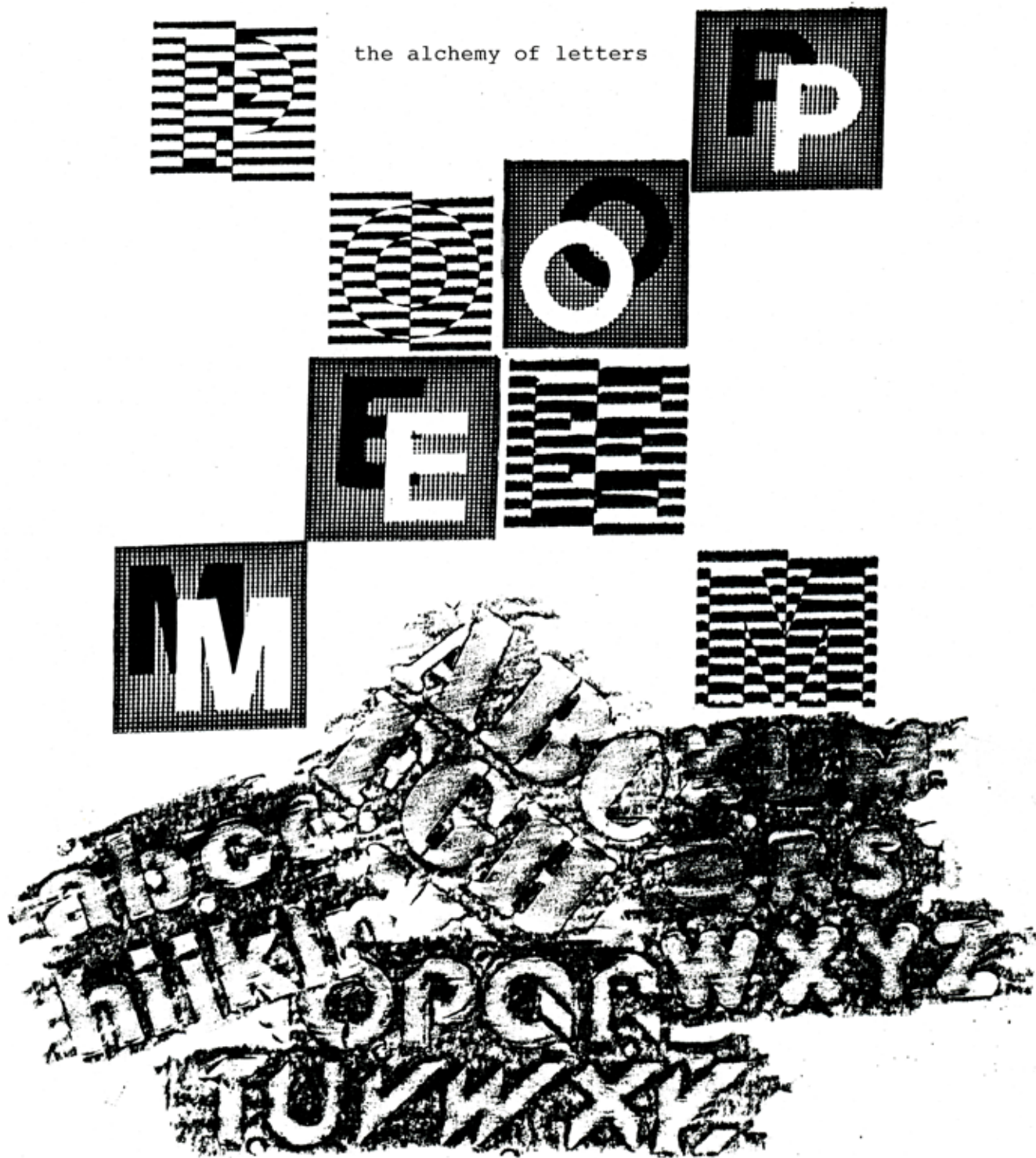


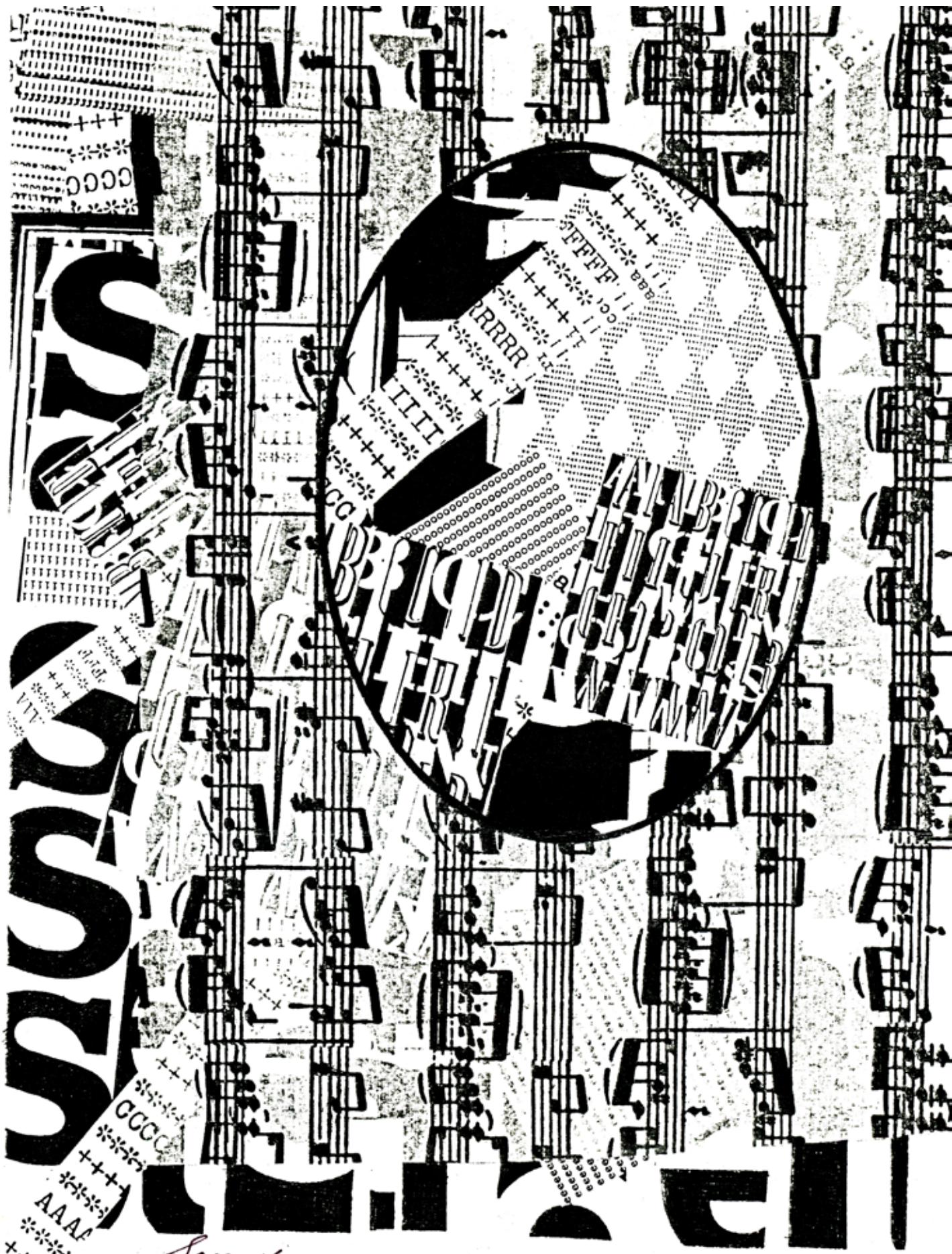
ALPHAGRAM #3



ALPHAGRAM 4





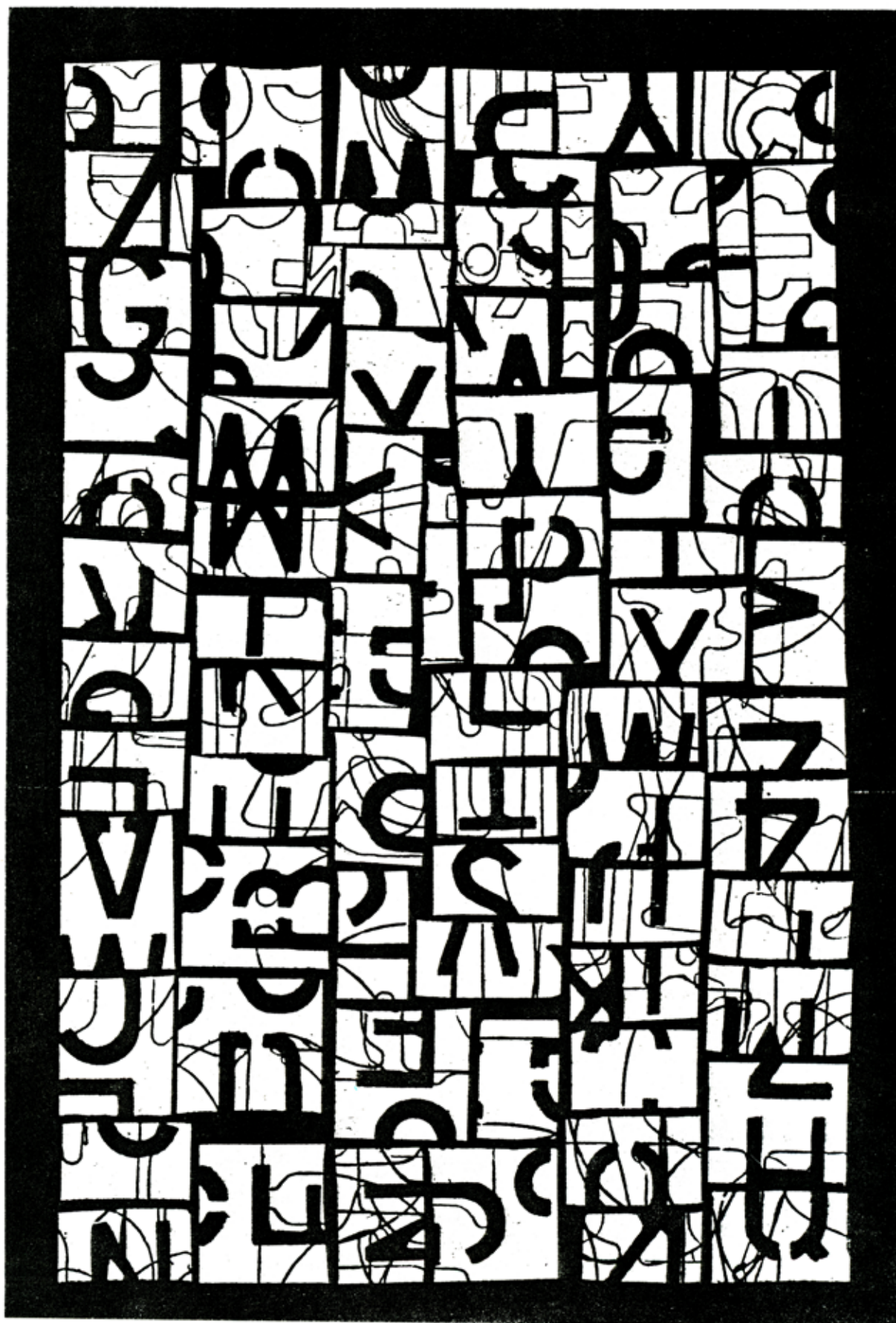


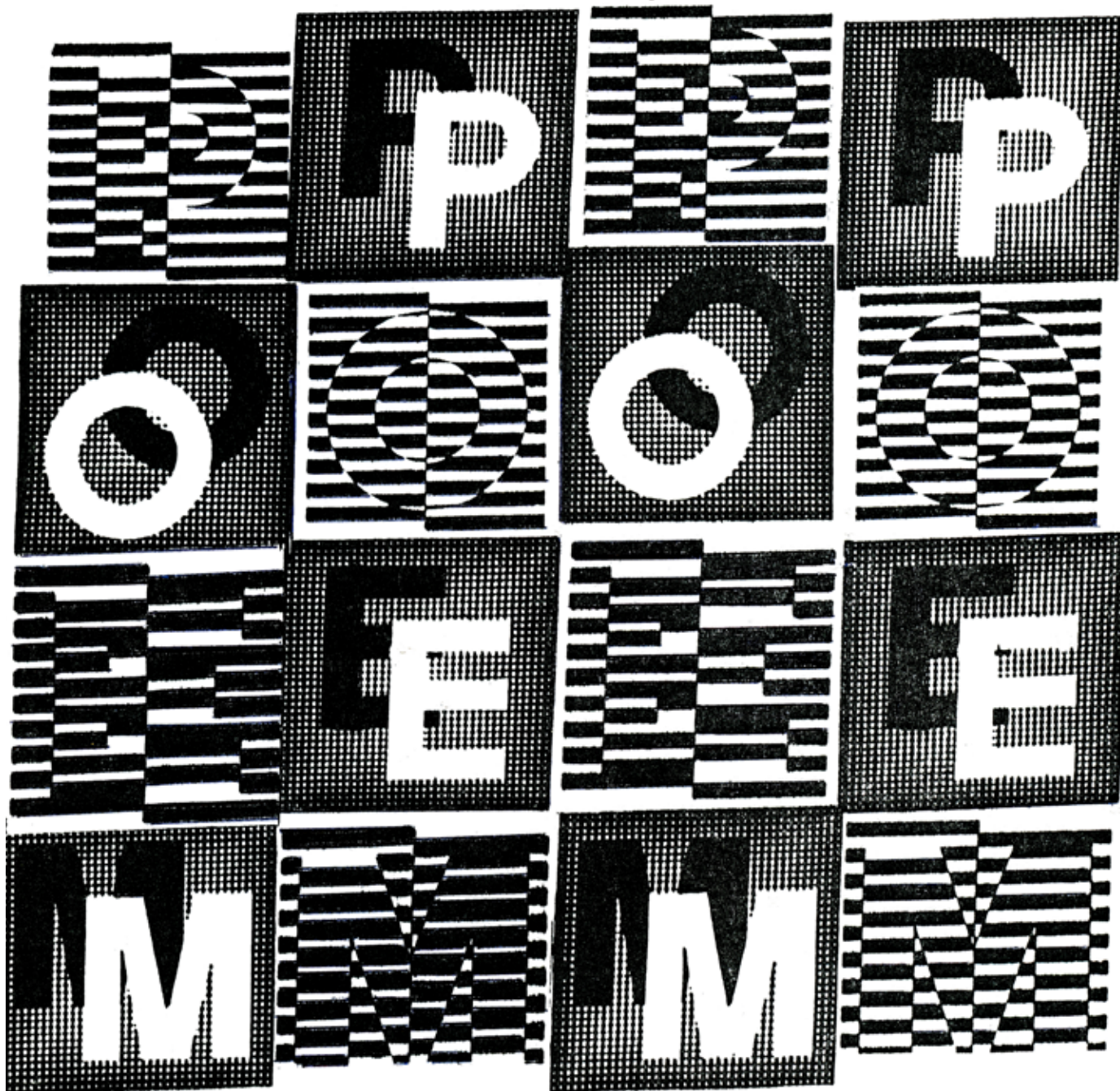
SONG FOR 10 VOICES

africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
peopleswe	peopleswe	peopleswe	peopleswe	peopleswe
indigo are	indigo are	indigo are	indigo are	indigo are
ebony nile	ebony nile	ebony nile	ebony nile	ebony nile
hued congo	hued congo	hued congo	hued congo	hued congo
are saloum	are saloum	are saloum	are saloum	are saloum
we zambeziwe	we zambeziwe	we zambeziwe	we zambeziwe	we zambeziwe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
ethiopewe	ethiopewe	ethiopewe	ethiopewe	ethiopewe
berber are	berber are	berber are	berber are	berber are
wolof kora	wolof kora	wolof kora	wolof kora	wolof kora
moor griot	moor griot	moor griot	moor griot	moor griot
are khalam	are khalam	are khalam	are khalam	are khalam
we mpalakhwe	we mpalakhwe	we mpalakhwe	we mpalakhwe	we mpalakhwe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
carverswe	carverswe	carverswe	carverswe	carverswe
shamen are	shamen are	shamen are	shamen are	shamen are
dyali zulu	dyali zulu	dyali zulu	dyali zulu	dyali zulu
sage hausa	sage hausa	sage hausa	sage hausa	sage hausa
are fulani	are fulani	are fulani	are fulani	are fulani
we ashantiwe	we ashantiwe	we ashantiwe	we ashantiwe	we ashantiwe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
bambarawe	bambarawe	bambarawe	bambarawe	bambarawe
watusi are	watusi are	watusi are	watusi are	watusi are
masai arab	masai arab	masai arab	masai arab	masai arab
arab masai	arab masai	arab masai	arab masai	arab masai
are watusi	are watusi	are watusi	are watusi	are watusi
we bambarawe	we bambarawe	we bambarawe	we bambarawe	we bambarawe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
ashantiwe	ashantiwe	ashantiwe	ashantiwe	ashantiwe
fulani are	fulani are	fulani are	fulani are	fulani are
hausa sage	hausa sage	hausa sage	hausa sage	hausa sage
zulu dyali	zulu dyali	zulu dyali	zulu dyali	zulu dyali
are shamen	are shamen	are shamen	are shamen	are shamen
we carverswe	we carverswe	we carverswe	we carverswe	we carverswe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
mpalakhwe	mpalakhwe	mpalakhwe	mpalakhwe	mpalakhwe
khalam are	khalam are	khalam are	khalam are	khalam are
griot moor	griot moor	griot moor	griot moor	griot moor
kora wolof	kora wolof	kora wolof	kora wolof	kora wolof
are berber	are berber	are berber	are berber	are berber
we ethiopewe	we ethiopewe	we ethiopewe	we ethiopewe	we ethiopewe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano
africano	africano	africano	africano	africano
zambeziwe	zambeziwe	zambeziwe	zambeziwe	zambeziwe
saloum are	saloum are	saloum are	saloum are	saloum are
congo hued	congo hued	congo hued	congo hued	congo hued
nile ebony	nile ebony	nile ebony	nile ebony	nile ebony
are indigo	are indigo	are indigo	are indigo	are indigo
we peopleswe	we peopleswe	we peopleswe	we peopleswe	we peopleswe
o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano	o africano

[illegible]







Bill Keith

Recent work by Bill Keith demonstrates that, contrary to popular myth, visual poetry isn't dead. At a time when most newly emergent writers are publishing work indistinguishable from their predecessors (and teachers), Keith demonstrates that it is still possible to do poetry discernibly different from what others are doing and have done. Can the same be said for the latest practitioners of "free verse"? Of course, visual poetry is harder to do than whatever it is that is taught in the "creative writing" courses nowadays; it requires experience with both language and image, in Keith's case with both poetry and painting / photography, and thus a developed sensitivity to combinations between them.



Given his respect for visual poetry's tradition, it is not surprising that Keith produces an alphabet--and a good one at that--and that he works in a variety of ways. My favorite piece is "Harlequinode," which I would gladly anthologize, if I still did poetry anthologies. I look forward to more work from him.

Richard Kostelanetz, New York, New York, August 1991

[illegible]