

lecture against memory: mounting, resignation, recognition, recurrence, mistake, pinch, wake up.

In places I wonder if she hears/sees/thinks/ the word just before or as she writes - or only after. Does she 'mean it', or is it just *prattle* (singsong, babyish joy in denotation [standards, steamers, curtains, bed linen], grammar becoming a 'weak force').

But "it is so easy to exchange meaning, it is so easy to see the difference" and on through the rest of the excerpt is definitely not babytalk, is exemplary in its variety of use, surface, suggestion.

Can't pin down what puts her on the interesting side of language's openness. At best her words displace all others. From Cups: "The best slam is utter."

BOB PERELMAN

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## TRANSLATIONAL RESPONSE TO A STEIN SINGLE

### a carafe that is a blind glass

she types clarity  
relations to a scene  
a seen in  
zero

queer ones in the pain  
of pattern  
wheeled directions to  
a fullness  
that negated more to  
more what chaos enters in

no one same article  
unlike a wide.

STEVE MC CAFFERY

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## WHOLE HALVES

Bisection, leaving one half hanging over, the drapes are clean, You look as if you need the third from the bottom, the keyhole, nicely in a row. That brings up heat, McCartney's words are blue. It's sort of molded into a mountain. South socks all metal by air sideways, the



trim set back from the teeth, the white trim, beginning to stand there. What's back is clear, gently crumpled without creases. White line leads to ferrous flair to private stuff side by side and side by side side by side invitation to an address. Lines rise. Pillow's overtime. Questions: round blue orange white yellow thin and horny. Once top on another without looking very far up. If they stay up, moving in up, and the board leads line a tongue right this way. And then the tongue two three four. Stripes are everywhere, some hanging down or looking up face down or up and left open ready to be lit: answer. The face got a new invention. Buttons no longer don't make any noise. Because what's switched also's identified. And instead of going straight on a round surface straight means the French word for alright. Right at the middle you get wet. Then people save you. Green spots connection. New buttons never have to curl over one another. The old rigidity, the old holes the fading tension aware of its collaboration, the new tension, uncovers the covers. What's a head no longer needs what's ahead because more and more buttons are right to be pressed, propulsion hovers on exhibit. It's stacked, easier to lose the thought of finding, insulatable craft against the checks. The rivers that run to the sea oh boy, use the floor as a step out the door. What's discolored indicates the presence of routine, suddenly the hard weight of the sun becomes mold, mold molding the frame, frame framing the water, water drying up. And ancient actress sees at once. To occupy, having an erection nothing is the same nothing is the name nothing is the frame. Pursuit is as temporal as openings and closings buttons relieved pacify. No one seems to know the right hand way to go, going down, which leaves the middle and the left facing the trees and the hills and the local stuff and the cagey touch flame away from glass. To be here now means how can no one respond to buttons. They all have to be accounted for. When you work in countries the next step is staying home, using buttons, could be in the air like the old Chinese pool hall. Nobody's outside without a shirt not moving lips without saying speed. Before there was even a black hole a table right beside it. A chair. A pair of re-routings means inside. Outside's very tangible, actual, substantive, understood, outside's very material, always there to be reached trying to be touched. Adhesives as well as collections and bone as well as plastic and current as well as fastening and sewing, the next step's stamping. The next step's diffuse. Solid. Volume descends to Richard's only throne. Division of the aspect into verb as seeing progressive form point-action verbs indicate is waking up is working out. Think of it as a as: my whole life has change. In between the round ups everything happens. Billy the Kid counts peas. Rock forms. PVC does not burn. But as we entered the harbor some kind stuck, made sticking sounds. Three bars equals ten dollars. Three buttons means one is missing. That means make it tighter and only maybe somebody'll have



to wait. One more thing, light. Looking closer or closely looking used to mean less light. To be precise include everything. Listening used to mean use your head. Then Picasso said even here means a lot of work. Even here being hear, you mean there Alice said. Here here refers to there, permission prohibition, love marriage, button unbutton, press release release press. To be precise precision excludes almost everything, what's left, under the light, clean dirty, includes everything. In the north in the potato country roads are there when you're there or when you're here. Here roads are here wherever you are.

PETER SEATON

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### ON FROM TENDER BUTTONS

Thinking aloud about a mystery is how I first conceived of writing. Then I understood that was just me. Her work is not a sort of solving. Here all colors, chosen, shine readily. The exudation is not cumbersome. But simply as the first act of creation was to separate light from darkness, she plays a cousin against not resembling, not ordinary against nothing strange, the same against the difference that is spreading, circling against dividing and singular against a memory. Both kinds shine convincingly when she's singing. Rid to red to reddening. An exception and a reestablishment at once - "better, and altogether" now.

RAE ARMANTROUT

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### THREE RESPONSES TO STEIN'S TENDER BUTTONS

#### A Carafe, That Is a Blind Glass

I'm not that kind, kind though I may be. It was hard for me-- hard of heart, heart of glass (breaks too easy). My cousin wears spectacles!-- wow!-- but there's nothing strange in her being hurt. I said I was kind, but was I? I can arrange it systematically, so she can point or be pointed to. Pointless, all this ordinarily unordered-- what does it resemble? Differences. From the differences we get the spreading.

#### Glazed Glitter

Nickle, she says. And nickle she probably means. Formerly