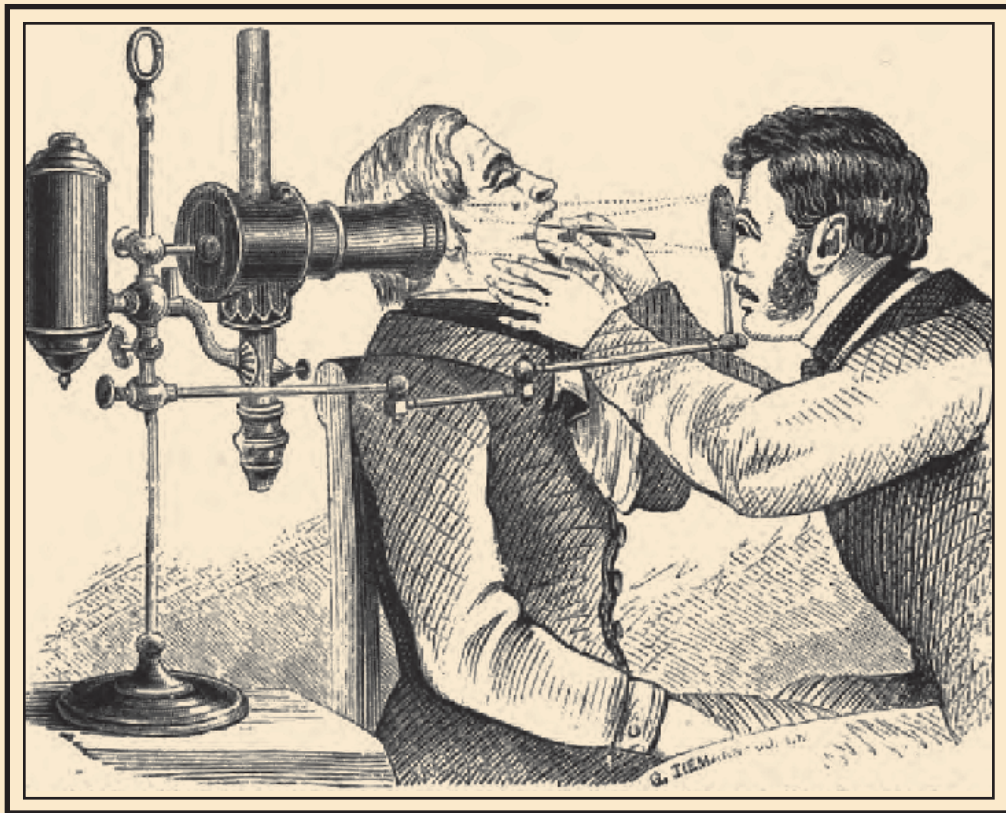


*AU CONTRAIRE*  
ALL POETRY IS POEMS



*featuring the works of*  
*John Ashbery · Fiona Banner · Caroline Bergvall · Derek Beaulieu ·*  
*Erica Baum · Kenneth Goldsmith · Christian Bök · Alexandra Grant*



Figure 18. Geometry of fallout radiation—soldier in foxhole and in the open.



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## ALL POETRY IS POEMS

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# ALREADY BAD ENOUGH WHEN THE NAME WAS BUT A NAME

“Well, let our name be vengeance.”

—Mr. Gabriel Utterson

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson recounts an allegory of bourgeois, Victorian identity. The novel depicts a male mind, cleaved from itself, doomed to oscillate between the polarities of good and evil, each side supplanting the other in both dishonour and disrepute, thus leading to a scandal that can jeopardize the social status of the “gentlemen,” who must protect the propriety of their professional, jurisprudential class. The novel can only dramatize this oscillation between mentalities by repeatedly exchanging, for each other, the two names of the principle, eponymous characters so that, beginning with the title of the novel, the name “Jekyll” might prevail, for a while, only to be deposed by the name “Hyde,” which in turn abjures, after a while, to the name “Jekyll.” The names trade roles in a fixed cycle of attribution (with lawyers and doctors working to protect the reputation of the “good name” against the notorious pseudonym that must, henceforth, “stink from one end of London to the other”).

Monikers for these two personalities, in fact, represent touchstones of important, narrative attention (since the reader must track the signatories of cheques and letters, figuring out the nature of the scandalous intimacies, which put at risk the honour of these names, both “known and often printed”). Counting names in the text (including the ones in titles) reveals that the word “Jekyll” appears exactly 99 times, while the word “Hyde” appears exactly 100 times. Just as Stevenson depicts a schizoid identity, divided against itself, experiencing equal parts of good

and evil, so also do the two names “Jekyll” and “Hyde” appear with virtually identical frequency (although the name “Hyde” prevails by the slightest advantage, despite the name “Jekyll” having the last word in the tale). Each name “avenges” the presence of the other, rising up against the name that has displaced it, clinging to a sequence of citation for as long as possible, before being again repressed. The text is thus made to suffer from the illness that plagues the unfortunate protagonist.

When the reader finally peruses the letter addressed by Henry Jekyll to Hastie Lanyon (requesting that Lanyon obtain medicinals from the laboratory of Jekyll), the reader is already predisposed to read the signature “H. J.,” not as a monogram for the full name of the sender, but as the initials, between which the I of his ego is alphabetically trapped (almost as though the letters H and J have become jihadists, hijacking each other at any moment). What patterns of recurrence do these initials describe? What picture can we create by graphing the transitions from one letter of the monogram to the next? How does the narrative switch between each initial H and each initial J? The diagrams that follow strive to document each of the 199 occurrences of the two names in the story, plotting both the order of their appearance and the scope of their continuance, so as to map their intertwining alliteration. The diagrams thus abbreviate the plot, depicting it as a fluctuation in the rise and fall of “characters” both as persons and as letters themselves.

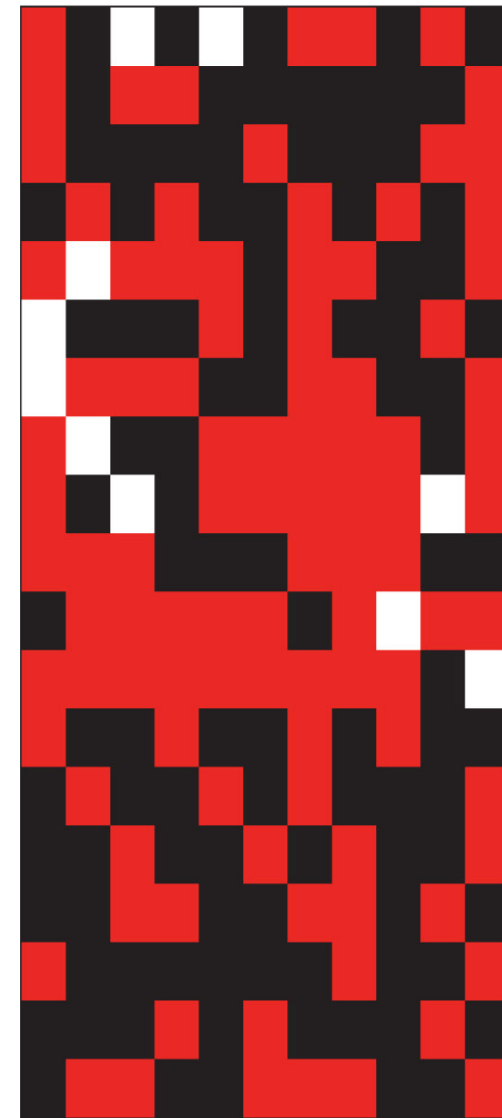


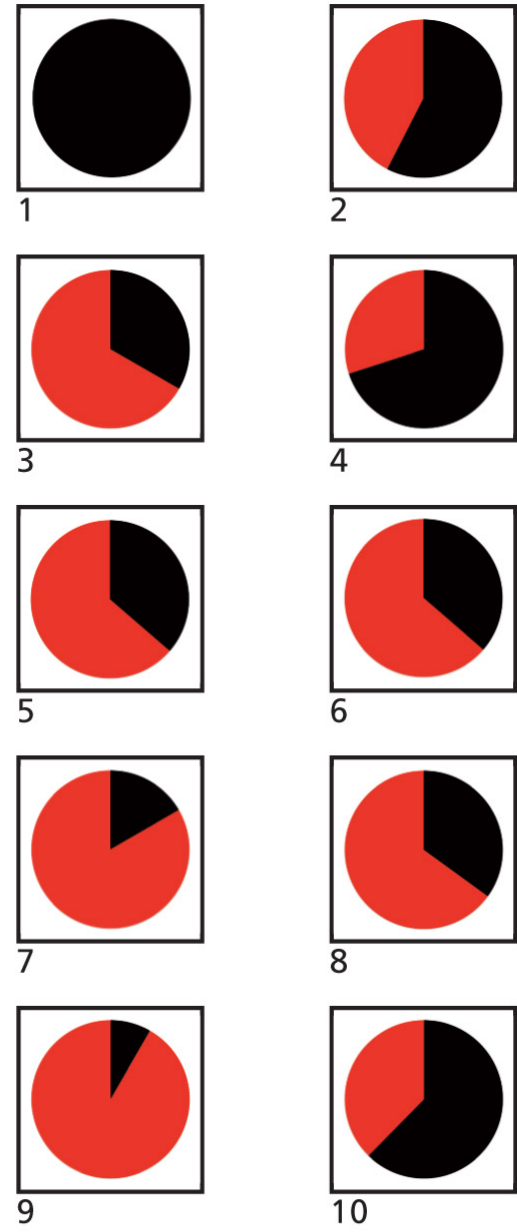
J H · H · H J J H J H  
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■ JEKYLL

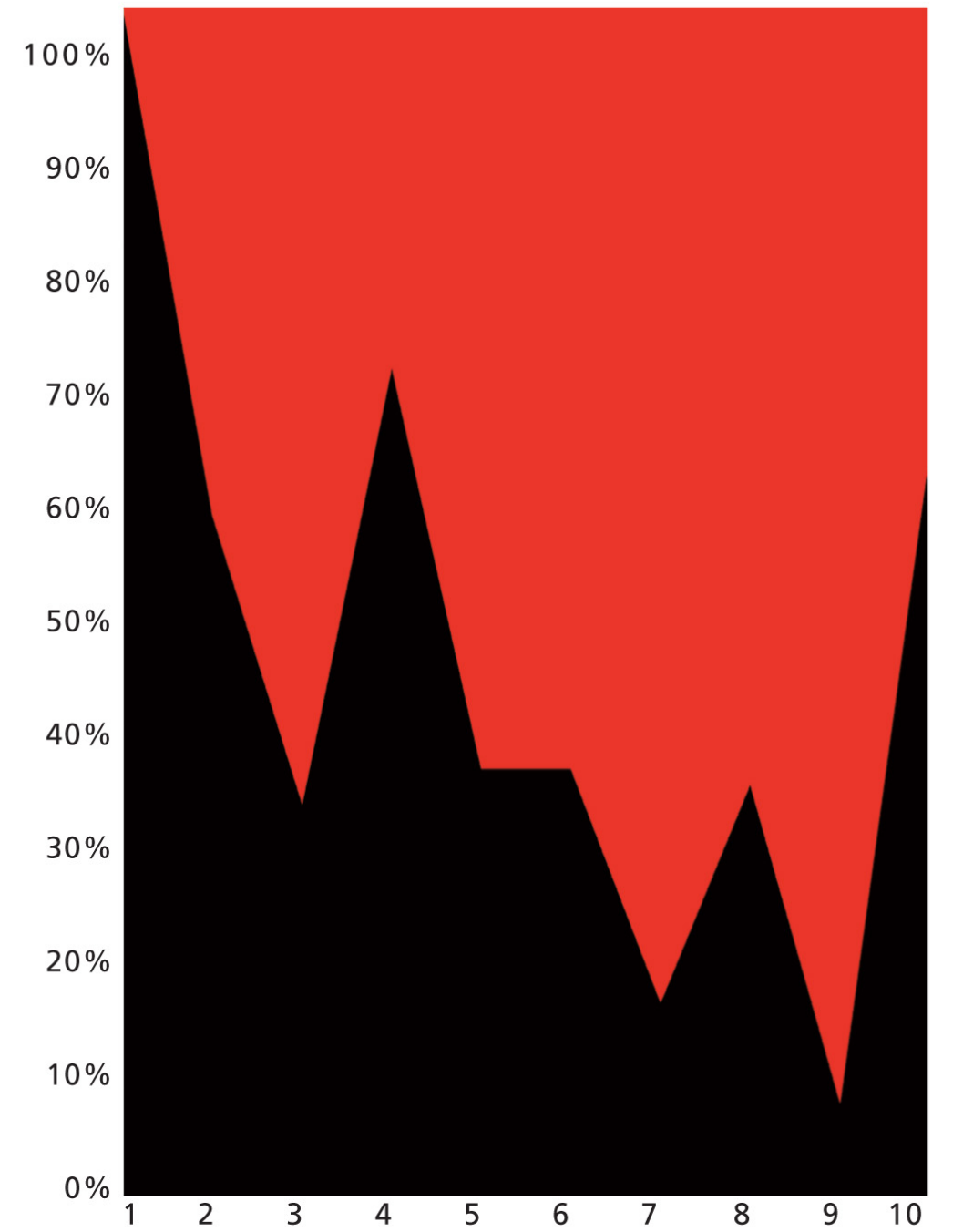
■ HYDE

□ BREAK





■ JEKYLL  
 ■ HYDE



RELATIVE OCCURRENCE OF JEKYLL AND HYDE

~~UNTITLED~~ FIRST TAKE, TRACK 1

(Roberta Flack can clean your soul – out!)

bass drums piano SAIDA LOVETHELIE bass LIETHELOVE bass HANGIN ON  
 bass WITH PUSH AND SHO V piano POSSESSION IS bass THE MO TIVATION  
 bass HANGIN UP bass THE WHOLE DAMNATION bass LOOKSLIKE piano  
 WE ALWAYS END UP piano INA piano RUT bass TRYINTO MAKEITREAL horns  
 BUT **COMPARED TO WHAT** horns piano drums bass

bass cymbals SLAUGHTERHOUSE bass IS KILLING HOGS bass cymbals  
 TWISTED CHILDREN ARE KILLIN FROGS cymbals drums POOR DUMB  
 REDNECKS ROLLIN LOGS piano TIRED O LADIES ARE KISSIN DOGS piano  
 bass AN I HATE THAT HUMAN LOVE piano THAT STINKING MUD piano  
 piano TRYINA MAKEITREAL horns BUT COMPARED TO WHAT horns bass

piano bass cymbals SAID THE PRESIDENT bass HES GOT IS WAR bass  
 FOLKS DONT KNOW bass JUSTWHATITSFOR piano bass NO ONE piano  
 GIVSUS piano RIME OR REASON piano YOUHAVE ONE DOUBT piano THEY  
 CALLIT TREASON bass piano I SAID WE'RE CHICKEN piano FEATHERS  
 piano ALL horns WITHOUT ONE GUT horns bass TRYIN horns MAKEITREAL  
 horns bass piano BUT COMPARED TO WHAT horns bass

drums bass piano cymbals GOT CHURCH ON SUNDAY bass cymbals  
 drums piano SLEEP A NOD bass TRY TO DUCK THE WRATH OF GOD bass  
 piano PREACHERS piano FILLIN piano US WITH FRIGHT piano TELLING  
 piano WHAT HE THINKS piano IS RIGHT piano cymbals WELL HE MUST  
 BE piano drumroll SOMKINDOV piano STUPID NUT piano cymbals drums

piano HE TRIES bass T MAKEITREAL drumroll piano TRY TMAKEITREAL  
 YEA piano drumroll TRYIN TO MAKEIT REAL REAL REAL drumroll bass TRY  
 T MAKE IT REAL piano drumroll REALREALYEA horns horns TRAT MAKE  
 ITREALYEA horns piano REALREALREALREAL horns TRAT MAKEITREAL  
 horns TRYIN T horns MAKE IT REALYEA piano piano

bass cymbals BUT WHERESTHEBEE bass AND WHERESTHEHONEY piano  
 WHERE'S MY GOD AN WHERE'S MY MONEY bass UNREAL VALUES bass  
 cymbals CRASSDISTORTION drums drums UN WED MOTHERS drums  
 drums drums NEE DABORTION drums ANIT KINDOV BRINGS TO MIND OH  
 piano YOUNG KING TUT piano HE bass TRIED horns TRIED horns TRIED  
 drums horns TRIED horns TO MAKEITREAL horns drums cymbals TRIED  
 TMAKEITREALYEA horns bass BUT COMPARED TO WHAT piano

bass cymbals SAIDLOVETHELIE LIE THE LOVE HANGIN ON WITH PUSH  
 bass AND bass SHO V bass POSSESSION IS THE MOTIVATION bass cymbals  
 HANGIN UP cymbals THE WHOLE DAM NATION drums LOOKSLIKE WE  
 ALWAYS END UP IN A bass RUT bass drums TRYINTO MAKEITREAL horns  
 BUT COMPARED TO WHAT horns piano piano bass cymbals drums piano  
 bass piano drums piano bass piano drums piano piano



## NOPING: THE OPENING OF THE MOUTH

Its a fine day • you step on to the top soil of your strata • you trip over some þing nearly makes you fall over • you look down but cant see any þing • for a few days this continues • youre walking along • enjoying the air the light the traffic the vast city around you • whatever • your foot trips on some þing • you catch yourself look down but no theres no þing there • a few days later • Its a fine day youre walking • in a pensive mood a lively mood a stressed out mood a sad mood • no matter • your foot gets caught on some þing • makes you trip not not fall • catch yourself • look down or back cant see anyþing at all •

Later that week its a fine day • your foot gets caught • you trip not not fall catch yourself • look down • back slightly • tarmac smooth and clear • no þing there at all • get caught trip not not fall catch yourself look down no þing • get caught trip not not fall catch yourself look back no þing • caught trip not not fall • catch yourself no þing • get caught trip catch yourself • þing • caught trip c tch your lf • þing • caught trip n t fall tch þing • c tch þing • þing • c tch its a fine day walking along foot gets caught • trip c tch yourself • þing • c tch • þing for a few ticks all is caught quiet c þing in suspension • in a perfect tripping suspension •

This is totally flipping • you look down • its a fine day • caught in quiet susp • theres a small root or a stone sticking up from the tarmac • just under your foot • keeping you perfectly susp • ended • a very small root or a stone is

upsticking from the strata top layer tarmac • you bend down to pull at it • it isnt a root at all nor is it a stone • looks more like a bone or a tooth • could be a large wooden oar with carvings from an old sunken ship • looks very much like a tooth • clean it up with your sleeve • def no þing like any tooth youve ever seen • not like the tooth you had removed the other day • its more like a • or some þing •

You put the tooth in your mouth • doesnt fit at all now thats a relief • feels like a large sail in your mouth • its big it pulls at your jaw • you put it in your mouth you feel a great pull a great cold of some þing • a great blan of dust a taste of ash þings your mouth covers your teeth your tongue • dust rushes out fills your mouth þing • need air • not need air • a great ash cloud starts to spin • spinning ash fills the vocal cavities • a sound like a sound that is mine yet not mine starts to spin in the mouth • sounds spin in the hole of the mouth • sounds ring to the hole like voices ringing in the hole of the muð of my mouth • mouth þing much like mine yet not mine •

Its a fine day • dust crowds pay my mouth a visit • dust voices like mine yet not mine • ringing in the hol • dust voices ash clouds in my mouth on this fine day • ðes fine day ðes fine dæg • ash clouds of the dead the dust bein of the daudr on ðes fin dæg • ðes fine day • the dúst bàn of the daudr • fine day fin dæg • fill my mouth up • ring in min muð on ðes fin dæg • they fill min mund on ðes fin dæg • they fill min up • fill me up on ðes fin dæg • open my muð for the þing of the hol • the þing of my mouþ for the sound of the hol • listen here hear the sound on ðes dæg • ring on ðes day • nu listen nu here hear ring on ðes fin dæg • denne fine dæg •







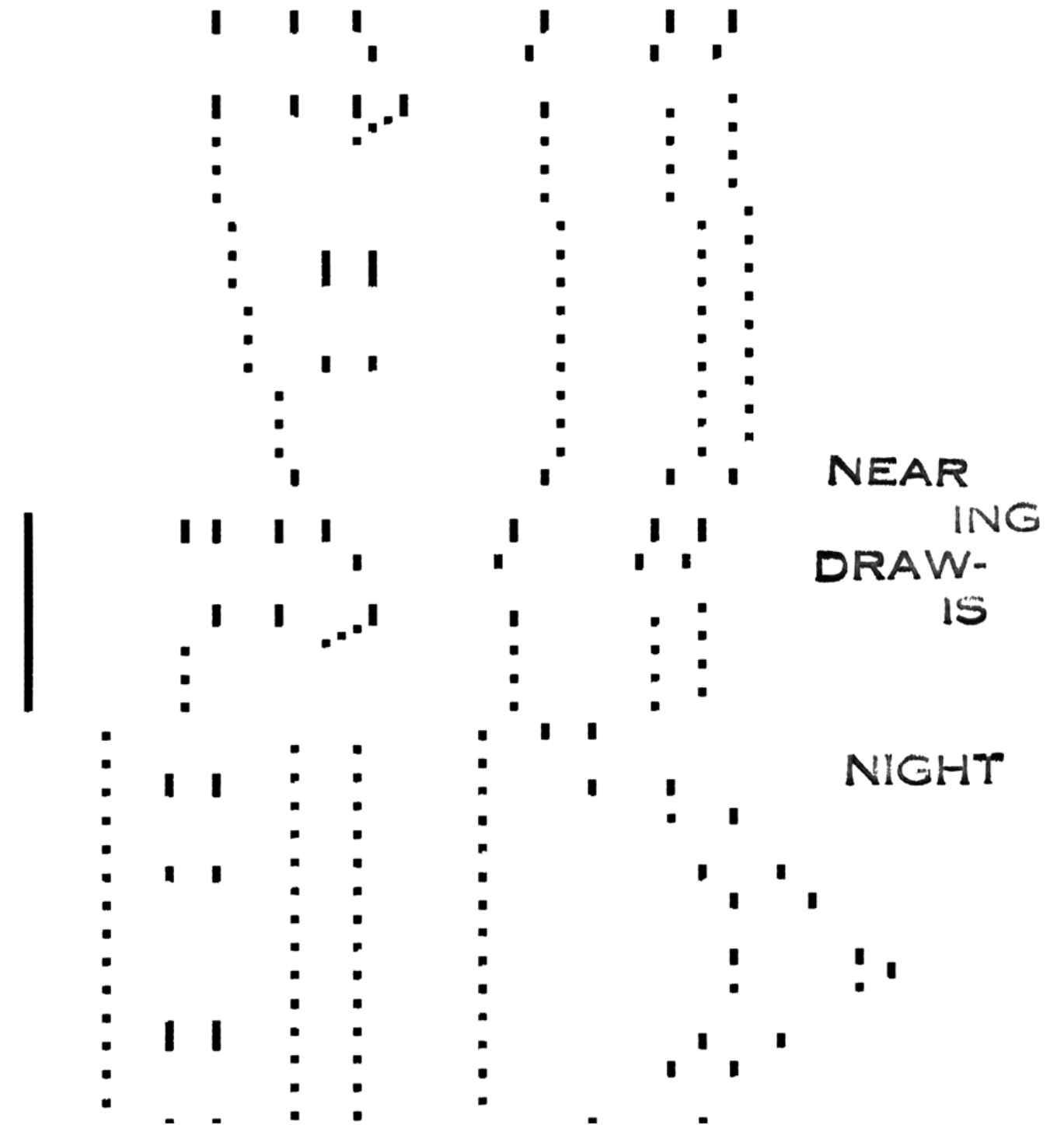
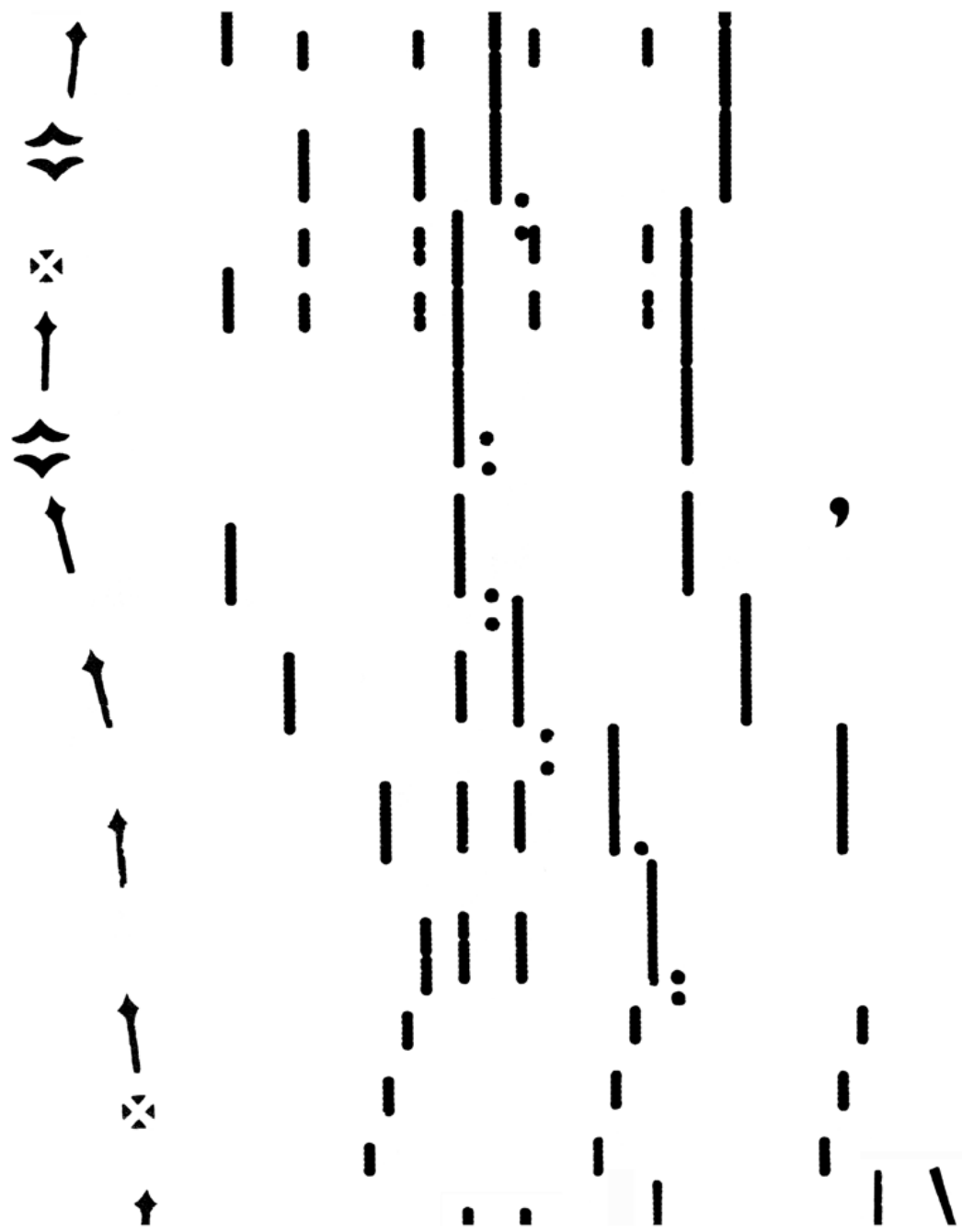






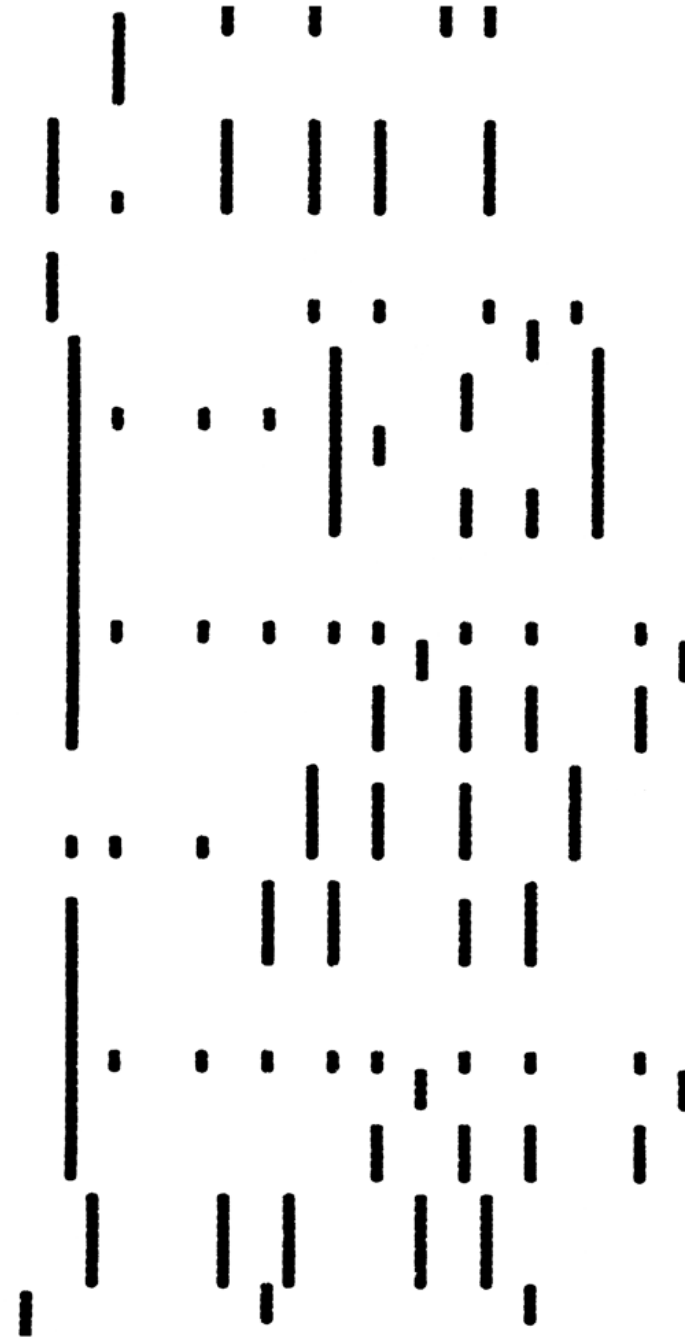








WALLS  
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 YOU  
 OH



## A FOUNTAIN IN THE STREET

*A pregnant ant circles the drain.*

Larry Fagin

The fountain is dead.  
The meadows aren't open  
for reasons best known to themselves,  
in case you asked.

The refrigerator on the porch liked it.  
So, too, did Mrs. Roosevelt.  
Everybody's been so wonderful  
more access, more experiences.

Fun fact: the Badger State is composed of ferns  
and feathers. Wild rice grows there. The natives  
harvest it in boats, banging the stems with poles  
so it falls off and covers the floor of the boat.

## MRS FOSTER'S PEARS

He said she was partially undressed.  
It turned out neither knew the other's race.  
Well, his dad says he was set up.  
He began to record other people.

I've got a doctor's appointment Friday  
not dinner for quite a while,  
and where it happened,  
my silver dear. Or ear,  
my sled less than a newborn stove  
in his office somewhere.

Now he's scouting it,  
the date on the drawer.

These are interesting to me.  
Take a close look.  
Alarmingly, the two sides had come together.  
Let's just say there are people in there.  
His father didn't laugh in this manner  
who failed all night  
and didn't let us know when it was ready.

What crumbles before it crumbles?  
An abundance of samples.





*Klang*. Full Stop, bronze, paint, 2003





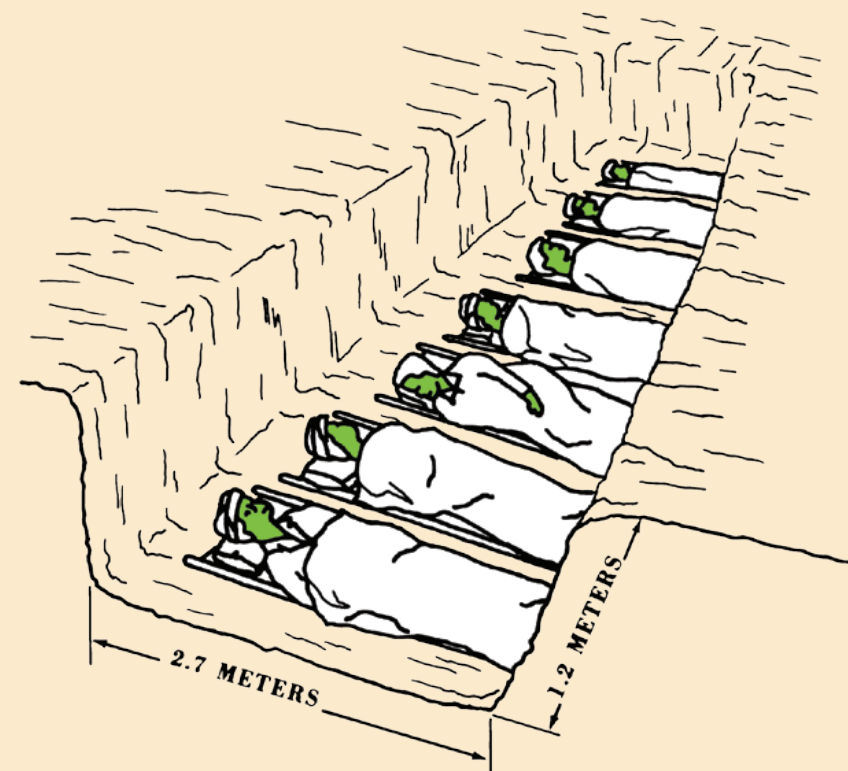


Figure 17. Dozer trench.