

Pataphysics Holiday Resort issue

Since its formation *Pataphysics* has often displayed dislocated images, not for any truly banal purposes, but rather to weight differently their symbolic dimension. Thus the attention an image gets is questioned. Magazines using found material – the detritus of an era – that’s nothing new. The published look of an eroded letter gives authenticity in a laser-writer reality. But when that ‘found material’ happens to be something you’ve written, a kind of private diary, as it were, and lost completely, not knowing where it went, and then to my complete shock it turns up in a magazine titled *Pataphysics*, then the argument at least for infringement of copyright emerges. The magazine itself seems almost scientific in layout, but at no time was there any attempt to contact me regarding the publication of my text (my telephone # in Amsterdam was on the back of the text reproduced). It’s called the Holiday Resort issue and initially it confounds with its large and varied range of contributions from artists, writers and theorists around the world. I recently visited their website at www.pataphysicsmagazine.com, and apparently the magazine was founded over a decade ago. There’s a wide field of archival material online, and the new issue includes photographs by and an in-depth interview with *Ken Park* director Larry Clark (*Pataphysics* first published Clark’s work in 1991), and artist Leon Golub talks of his *Mercenaries* paintings of the 1980s. There are stories by Joyce Carol Oates, *Semiotext(e)* magazine founder Sylvère Lotringer, Michal Govrin and the British sci-fi novelist, Brian Aldiss. Bruce LaBruce contributes an incisive text on one of Fassbinder’s lesser-known films, *Whity*, and there’re some poems and tarot punchlines by Tony Towle (whose poetry John Ashbery called ‘one of the New York School’s best kept secrets’). Italian writer Paolo Virno

discusses with great timeliness the concept of the ‘multitude’ along with the bad sentiments of cynicism and opportunism. Also in this issue Chris Kraus talks about the mystic and philosopher Simone Weil, and Weil’s influence on her. A pataphysical holiday resort then perhaps? But within this compendium of ideas, leisure becomes more a zone for thinking, and in the process the concept of ‘holiday resort’ blooms into an hallucinatory space: the cover displays a startling color photograph of what’s possibly a jungle retreat (constructed Schwitters-like from old pieces of wood). Flipping the magazine over you are given another version of this shanty, but with solarized film making large swathes of intense red and yellow – it’s like some other reality being illuminated by a light beam (or is it emerging from this recycled detritus house?). The photographs that introduce the issue evoke the initially haunted idea of this holiday resort: a barren building with a menacing portal – following this are various images – desert-like hills, a girl looking uneasy at a café, an elegiac image of a romantic treed vista and, perhaps equally saddened, a cliché island beach scene with leaning palm trees and fake-looking waves. Later on in this issue an editorial photo-essay of the West Gate Bridge in Melbourne accompanies Sylvère Lotringer’s interview with French theorist Alain Joxe – a tragic and formally beautiful structure, housing only movement, here comes to symbolize the scale, swoop and brutality of the new global Empire. The editors of *Pataphysics* seem to be suggesting – with both awkwardness and seamlessness – that conjunctions like Larry Clark’s kids and Simone Weil’s religious visions accompanied by images from baroque business parks and the delirium of German artist Albert Oehlen’s rhythms, might be the unlikely setting for a holiday resort that isn’t a last resort.

Mia van der Rohe, biographer of percussionist and theologian/educator Ranald White (dec.), alien resident of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, is identified as the sole holder of copyright pertaining to the previous text entitled ‘Re: Pataphysics Holiday Resort’, 9 copies of which have been forwarded without prejudice at the pre-court hearing (The Hague), Mia van der Rohe vs. Pataphysics magazine. <http://www.pataphysicsmagazine.com>