

Preface to Poems

By Catherine Dalyⁱ

Marguerite Porete was executed as a heretic in France in the early 1300s. Her book, *Le Mirouer Des Simples Ames Anienties Et Qui Seulement Demourent En Vouloir Et Desir D'Amour*, has been the source of three recent writing projects. The second act of Anne Carson's opera libretto entitled DECREATION is based on Porete's trial testimony and writing. MD Coverley edited an online project where concerns that Porete and net.artists share are debated, THE MIRROR OF SIMPLE ANNIHILATED SOULS (at <http://currents.cwrl.utexas.edu/archives/fall01/fall01/luesebrink/wone.htm>). "In Medias Res," a contemporaneous long poem excerpted here, but also existing in animated MS PowerPoint and transparency, approaches this morality play through "lo fi" and ubiquitous technology (that of common office software) to demonstrate writing's survival and erasure. Slide transitions and some transitions which are only available in certain mediums (named in the poem's section titles) fade the text to white. The words form transitional poems before they disappear.

Porete was forced to witness her books' burning before she was burned. Yet, one reason she was a heretic was she distributed her work: In a time when women "were not" peripatetic preachers with self-published books, she was. Many copies of her book survived the *auto da fe*. So, too, her work has become useful to a diverse group of contemporary writers.

In Medias Res

Marguerite Porete / Porette of Hainaut / de Hannonia

Box Out

Humility, Queen of the virtues,
mathematics, Queen of the sciences. When I draw a family,
 Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Marcellina,
 all wear five point crowns
 five digits in each hand and
 we can flourish without time's thorns, defused and I crown us all,
 regle

O emerald, diamond, Queen, Empress, knowledge no riches but pleasure not awe.

And now a word from our sponsor ...

 o, Aristotle, Marcellina
 e point crowns
 digits in each hand and

 crowns

Box In

Cattle live by silage.

corn

Live by look kernel seed

core

i.e., by free will, servants of the law.

kernel translates physical I/O to logical I/O

2038

allocate

allocute

Many of these slides lack focal points ((focus)).

corn

look kernel seed

core

Wipe

O, what will Beguines say when they hear you sing?

Truth declares
I am loved by one.

A	B	A XOR B
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

This is true, but I would lie as soon as say something.

Begin.
Love talks. She walks in me. I am still. The earth is motionless.
Humming ceases.

Humming ceases.

Dissolve Letters, Bridging to Cover a Break in Time.

It's necessary servers aren't free;
it's possible those sensing aren't dead;
it's ok if who desires, wills;
it's not ok if who wills, begs;
it will always be the case who begs, lacks;
it's de-lovely.

I said *I will love.*
I lie. *He alone loves me:*
he is, I'm not.

 t at a e 't ;
s s i e t at se ses d a ;
ok ho , w l s;
 o w o i l , be s
w l c se w o egs, a ks;
de- .

 I lo e.
I . e l ve me:
i no

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