

Found Duende, Erasing Duende, Duende Phrase Acrostic



It is interesting to note that there was one essay written by non-US American in the Poetics of the New American Poetry. Federico García Lorca. The essay is Theory and Play of the Duende. (Sometimes known as “Theory and Function of the Duende.”) Amidst almost entirely male US poets, there’s Lorca from the grave urging mid-century poets to reach deeper than beliefs, rhetoric or thoughts/emotions. The duende knows it’s too late for superficial gestures.

The Duende Wikipedia entry suggests the duende in this context is: "a state of tragedy-inspired ecstasy..." "a poetic emotion which is uncontrolled." It comes from inside as a physical/emotional response to art..." It also says: "...at least four elements can be isolated in Lorca's vision of duende: irrationality, earthiness, a heightened awareness of death, and a dash of the diabolical."

If extra-judicial extraditions are any sign (& they ought to be, and they are diabolical), our time is loaded with the duende and the battle lines of the struggle are clear. Don't be a caudillo-enabler! Better git the duende in your soul! Touches of surrealism help the cause in all the following methods.

FOUND POEMS

In the Wilson's Bowl chapter of Cascadian Zen Volume II, Phyllis Webb takes segments of Lorca's essay and creates "found poems:"

Duende

'Where is the Duende?

An air smelling of a child's
saliva, of pounded grass
announcing the constant
baptism of newly created
things'

Duende

Dark sounds
'behind which we discover
volcanoes, ants, soft
winds, the Milky Way.'

'It burns the blood
like powdered glass.'

Duende!

Thus Lorca, his Duende

Over the world

Duende!

In this place

Tremendum.

You could try this tact, extracting phrases that strike you in Lorca's essay, but there is no duende in copying. How to make it new?

ERASURE?

You could try an erasure. The fascists erased Lorca, but your erasure would be an honoring of him, otherwise you're entering dangerous psychic territory. How to create a plan and get the essence of the essay across, or allow people to see it from a new angle? It's good to have a



formula when doing such a de-composition. One word per line? Two?
Totally random?

MAMMAL GRAFT

You might just find inspiration in one line and be off and running. From that line you could track the assonance, or the logopoeia, or the juxtaposition of the people at the margins most at risk when the fascists try their tired parlor tricks. From the exercise: “Find a stanza, or a line or two, from one of your old poems, [or in this case, the Duende essay] repeat it (really type it out on the page, or write it down if you compose by hand) and see where it leads you.

PHRASE ACROSTIC

That’s the route I took in September’s Search for Duende back when I was mired in Slaughter. When you read the poem, first read the first word in each line. Starting with a phrase, or phrases, the form attempts to evict you from your editor head and down to where the duende slowly percolates waiting for a host like you to release some of Lorca’s trapped soul. The Spanish were not kidding around and in the New Winter in America, you shouldn’t be either, as the stakes are not likely to be higher in your lifetime.

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Work Cited

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Spanish/LorcaDuende.php>



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Cascadian Zen Volume II: Bioregional Writings on Cascadia Here and Now

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