

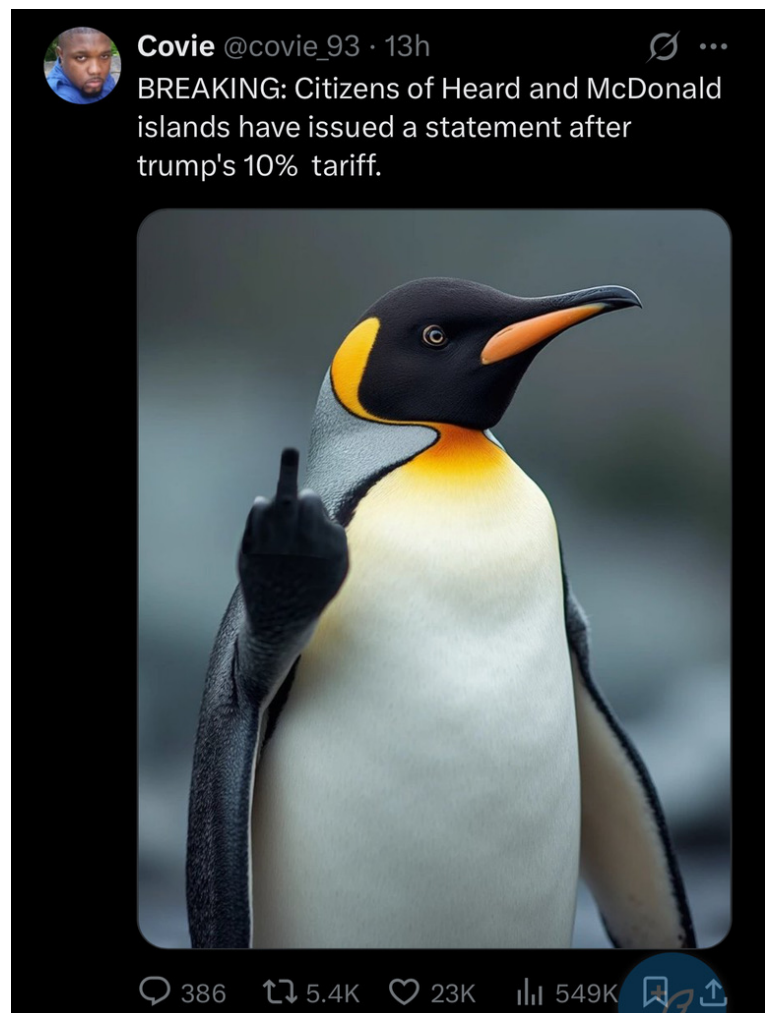


Reportorial Poetics, Tariff Poetics, ICE Poetics, Gaza Poetics

Brenda Hillman updated the Investigative Poetics of Ed Sanders for the 21st Century. You could see these two as the Mother and Father of current events poetics, creating poetry that is, as Ezra Pound says, “News that stays news.” Yet poetry must go beyond rhetoric to last, to be a high energy construct and not an evil energy vampire, and that’s where Brenda Hillman shines. Brenda would be a molecule, a fly, a keen witness to sentient letters.

First, read this packet on Hillman’s Reportorial Poetics. To carry out what she suggests requires some planning and maybe some travel. Surely your town has a city council and maybe you are lucky enough to live in a capital city. But land use arguments are difficult sources from which to extract poetry. A trip to D.C. or Ottawa may not be in the cards.

However, the news is a zone that has been fully flooded with shit and it is our job to put on some latex gloves, hold our noses and wade through the ScheißeBereich to find inspiration. Tariffs recently proposed (or enacted, it’s hard to tell at this point in time) by the U.S. government are one example. Heard Island and McDonald Islands are Australian jurisdictions that are home only to penguins. They are now subject to a 10% tariff and the locals are not happy about it:





Do you know the only country not affected by Trump's tariff's. I'll give you one guess Comrade.

Gaza, Tesla's demise, ICE crimes, the Tesla Takedown or any number of extreme weather events can also be excellent subjects for a mini-Saturation Job. If you are so inspired, you can submit your poem to Rattle's Poets Respond. Getting into the habit of this mode and practice is recommended.

While writing these kinds of poems, it is important to refrain from commenting. As Brenda Hillman manages, as Joanne Kyger did while writing about Madame Blavatsky. The key is to know what material to present, how to order it, and how to inject a little of yourself and the present dharma position where, as Shinshu Roberts says, "Awakened response is integrating oneself with the specificity of each moment, which is intimately experienced as your life with self and others."

The moment of your writing this poem, or any projective poem, or





poem experience in which you are tapped into energies larger than yourself, should elevate your consciousness. The poem experiencing you should be an exhilarating and humbling moment. Give thanks to the muse and give we common people some of the medicine we need to get through this new Winter in America.

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WORK CITED:

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