ROSMARIE WALDROP Third Person Singular



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The pouring-down rain, the pouring-down rain. Says it over and over, as if to drain the words from the system they are part of. Warm refrain to make her a first person, if only temporarily. Children born blind say I only after they've learned to play with a doll. Meanwhile turns in little quarter turns to dry herself. Almost a waltz. Reel. Smile. The arrangement of auditory pathways in the brain is similar to those for vision, not moving in a straight line at the same speed. Stampede. More like thinking philosophically, branching perspective into balconies swinging out over the void.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rosmarie Waldrop's recent books of poetry are Driven to Abstraction, Curves to the Apple, Blindsight (New Directions), and Love, Like Pronouns (Omnidawn). Her novels, The Hanky of Pippin's Daughter and A Form/of Taking/It All, are available from Northwestern UP, her collected essays, Dissonance (if you are interested), from University of Alabama Press, the memoir, Lavish Absence: Recalling and Rereading Edmond Jabès, from Wesleyan UP. She translates German and French poetry (Elke Erb, Friederike Mayröcker, Edmond Jabès, Jacques Roubaud) and co-edits Burning Deck books with Keith Waldrop, in Providence RI.

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