

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Cliff Eisner: Three New Poems

Cliff Eisner · Wednesday, January 22nd, 2014

Cliff Eisner has had his poetry published in *Appeal To Reason*, *City Miner Anthology*, *Hudson River Anthology*, and *Yellow Silk, Margin* (U.K.). He is the author of the chapbook *Running for the hungry* (Atticus Press 1983). Cliff is currently at work on a collection of poetry, *Taking Leave*, and a collection of “flash plays,” *The Licking Stone*.

Cultural Weekly is proud to premiere these three new poems from Cliff Eisner.

the bus passed an hour ago

we are in the middle of a robbery
 and the word HOSTAGE occurs suddenly
 like a revolver on the windowsill.
 there is nothing to do but freeze.
 then they take us to be tied
 and pushed into the back room
 where we will be lucky
 to be found again.

the ward

you are singing
 for water. the open
 corridor
 is pierced with light,a
 gaping. a wound
 grapples your visual
 memory. the old woman
 who walks the halls
 all day all night, her
 pacing has picked
 the walls up by their ears.
 even the clock paces.

by the flowers,
 by the window, 5 stories
 in the air through
 mesh that traps the smallest
 insect made enough
 to get caught in the wind.
 this is the ward
 and this is the floor
 and these wake me
 with needles already
 drawing. the sad one sits
 down to weep over nothing.
 the faraway one
 who eats the plants
 at windows chanting gibberish
 in the painful language
 of dream with symbols
 of poverty.

water is finally gotten
 for you. if the capsules
 stick, then how will you sing?

the fit at night

the way white peels off
 your hips perfectly like skin
 how you pivot on your waist
 either way to ease them to
 the pull of your hands down
 to where you stop and you
 stop there where my heart
 catches its throat with light
 and without blinking you draw
 me in to press on you with my
 kiss

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