

# PROP AND GUIDE

Melanie Neilson

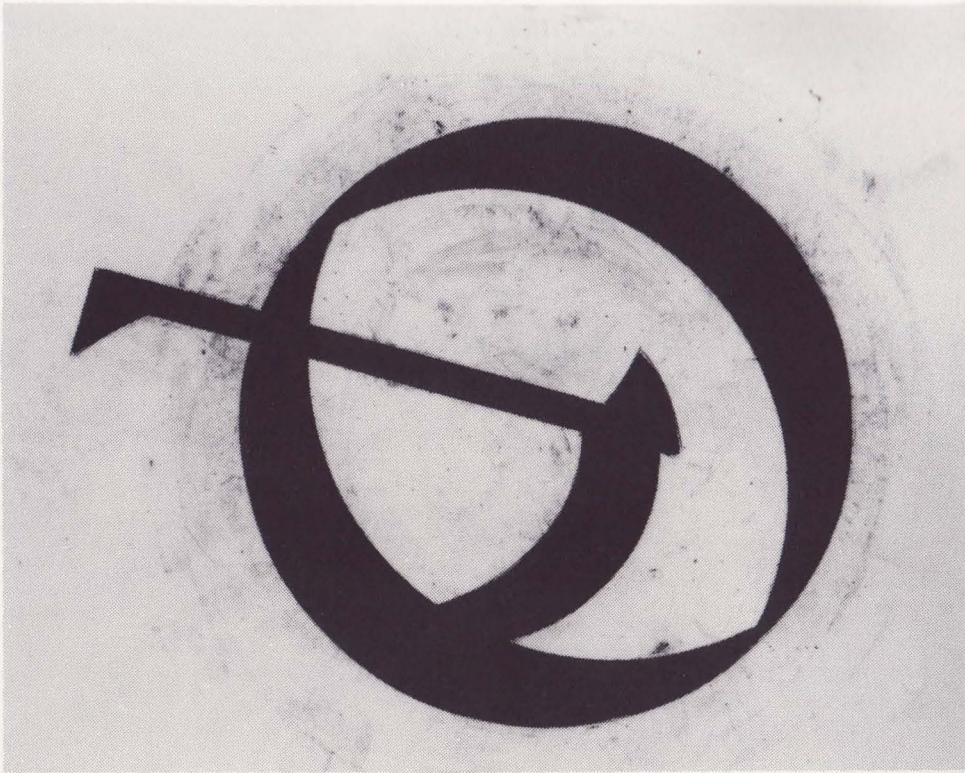


**PROP AND GUIDE**

by

Melanie Neilson

The Figures



for my brother John

Cover and drawings from "The Phonemes" by Carol Szymanski,  
1990, courtesy of Amy Lipton Gallery, NYC.

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## PROP AND GUIDE

Glittering close to its tale  
shot through drippy peach separation  
the nearness "a moment ago"  
apertunist gap

So much thigh frill  
under the eyelet  
show some bed  
under the respect  
horn mooing distance

Case of the missing puff pastry  
filled with savoury volcanics  
voluptas cords  
*vaut* heaven

Baste away garrulous knee fraught  
locomotive gaze  
deep up a stocking

## SENSE AND RESOLUTION

I

Coo the Twenty-Four  
contumacy cotta  
pathless morn hoots  
pink 'rageous corner

Keen you any lineament  
such airing nosy festoon  
matters of aerial lace  
teary amplitude

Mimosa touched so droops  
light slaw degree  
where creatures meet  
burst what garden or  
subject the implying  
too la la la la la

## TOOTH AND KNELL

Lichen boot shape  
pass tongue over  
2000 cross words  
inferno booster

Swoon forward *f* root  
martyrdom by the sea  
reverse charisma my  
a century of register  
marmalade out  
human planet

When walls are grey  
understanding wince  
stamped jaws enough  
cruciverbalist niche  
love imprint  
cloud secluder

## TINY ON A TRAP SEAT

sub-tropical horror  
make it warmer  
more afternoon  
size 10 pulp  
fret boutique  
sweet trolley  
it's blossom  
outside circle pedia  
vegetarian puppets  
make it in moon purée  
into a fig of joy

## LEAPING THE CHASM

does as dearie slips  
wall of fairy possum  
photogenic historian  
one-atom band  
in women's clothing  
stun Monday  
prawn in the way  
her realness  
a pussle pour  
nocturnette do

## LOUNGE WRITING (for D. K. S.)

Come to bat my dove  
candelabra tools  
something of love  
can put up  
ears live with  
lozenge doll asleep

A kick out of you  
foolish trains  
snap to, come home  
are the luckiest  
fever in the world

Fleshiest version  
chanticleer toon  
hay there my  
kumquat station

## LIFT AND GALLOWS

Slow-breathing practice  
means a Paris hat  
"vanish" outskirts  
big animal suspender  
mega-hari eclipse

The patient a city  
"spirits" megaphone  
the critical list  
scaffold vs. lips  
emphasis on arranging  
underwater, underground

Vibe-led dice yard  
bewitched swallowers  
thinking hat to collect  
lockpick thin air  
radio cross skull  
claim the little sequel

## HEART CURRICULUM

Body of movie  
for what ails  
but the Light  
first thought  
sore as aviation

"Freeze" moving prize  
curvacious oath  
out science alive  
come crashing  
insane belts

This curious cure  
Niagaravates  
best costume

## DISTORTION no. 9

To "chill" secret suitability?  
Shun motif (left cheek)  
them that's lapsed  
sweet buds derring-do  
old fool, new fool, every  
fool but true blue

For arm's sake  
x-ray muddy shade  
french my long-stemmed dress  
shad character to  
private april over  
all shackled down  
all shackled down



SEATED WOMAN by seated woman (for J. F.)

"Whatever you do, dearie,"  
recuperate for Melodrama  
bells at sunset  
daylights out of me  
Gish-like cyrillic faktura  
soft broken blossom focus

*Where or how* (sex)  
meet and differ  
Victorian dead-end tender  
cruelty for cruelty's sake  
at long last  
lick and skip  
the radiant tear close-up

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