



THE  
PRIMORDIAL  
DENSITY  
PERTURBATION

*poems*

**Stephen Collis**

*tinfish retro series no. 3*

The true  
drama of  
contemporary  
culture lies  
in the fact  
that it has  
become  
almost  
impossible  
to imagine  
social change  
that is not  
cataclysmic.

—

SVEN  
LÜTTICKEN



*Retro Series chapbooks are printed in Hawai'i on recycled paper.*

1.

You you Egypt Tunisia Libya  
so swept up clutter world  
ideo-faith pathology—West?  
underbid the Euro-waste  
nostalgic trench war  
poncho draped gringo films  
swagger but huh? rope-a-dope  
republicans once fenced their  
lives on brick lingo  
the blood they lapped  
exploding buddha style so  
fringe fest margins all  
dregs and drag nets  
and then the like of their  
halo politicians all  
grenade handed and rifle  
economics proclaiming origins  
as expropriations the bulge of  
oil just under earth skin  
**rip!** the jib of  
state's sail snapped open  
the numbers flying up  
like camel train the  
sonic boom of events  
and big-bang pants  
in fashion again this season

2.

It's the events we lumpen  
struggle agro-crop to  
imagine the **woops** of  
primordial density perturbation  
or instant class consciousness  
you know sea all swelly  
of a sudden the perfect  
heterotropic ship running  
guns for governments or it's  
kefayas! all around Tahrir Square  
up-thrust subduction no  
two party system but  
where did anything come from  
and how like curtains  
round a wizard **ignore that man**  
tear it off this gauze from  
eyes this false separation of  
individuals **we in this y'all**  
crap thrown fast from  
unheard explosions

3.

But let's just see into spacetime  
humpback music depths the  
collateral damage friendly  
enviro-fire of our investment  
portfolios the shot-out-of-a-  
canon-ness of multi-screw-ball  
economies beginning **hey you  
should pay me for that!** light  
bulb moment or another like  
**we could just share it?** then  
all fisticuffs history and  
ruins only poverty left no  
monuments wood and flesh and  
fabric fluid the time light  
travels from dead origins  
last one out / turn off the light  
conserve crazy for the  
rebound universes  
strings and branes displaced  
did this change anything?  
this changes **everything**  
it's an **event** bro  
shit happens all over the place

4.

The best we're able to say is  
extreme high density environment  
cosmological inflation pump  
who-done-it mysteries hedge fund  
the fundamentalist conceptualists their  
finger puppet diaries explaining  
oscillatory structure like  
dupes dropped a news bomb on it  
now it's celebrity this or  
catastrophe that solar or social  
this thing capitalism begun  
in a flurry of accumulations  
(that's robbery between you  
and me) lightcone spacetime  
free-fall of photons and matter  
so culture is imperfections the  
little welts of words along  
the paper horizon muttering  
bilge pump to spinnaker  
hove this dodgy ball this  
planetary Ypsilanti hum-drum  
or opiate geodesic vorticity—  
after galaxies form we  
will certainly need to  
smooth the wrinkles out of  
this cosmic social disorder

5.

Which isn't to say it's as natural  
as evil-twin sub-plots  
**they looked just like actual bankers!**  
describing spacetime  
slicing and threading  
manichean poetics all dolled up  
container dock cranes roost  
blue herony and vampiric  
city outskirts comoving  
worldliness orange jump suit  
after orange jump suit  
that's a bail out for  
leaky hominids the leap  
into event slicing and threading  
their cartesian coordinates  
me / you lapidary belief system  
getting all ontological up in  
his mixed grill the  
chalkboard sea with ship  
equations slicing and threading  
it's all soup and explosions  
fat boy slim paradox yelp  
or yawp we're bardic homes  
light years ahead of this  
catastrophe season and hell-bent  
on changing the system so  
hold it up in a satanic light  
and read it backwards—  
time was smooth  
then became perturbed  
a revolution in each of our  
little welt words





### ***about the poet***

Stephen Collis is the author of *Mine* (2001), two parts of the ongoing Barricades Project—*Anarchive* (2005) and *The Commons* (2008)—and two books of criticism: *Through Words of Others: Susan Howe and Anarcho-Scholasticism* (2006) and *Phyllis Webb and the Common Good* (2007). His most recent book, *On the Material* (2010), won the 2011 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. A long-standing member of the Kootenay School of Writing, he teaches poetry, poetics and American literature at Simon Fraser University.

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