

POP & BEFORE THE LAW

By Connor McDonald

*Poetry editor Hezekiah writes... I ordinarily find repetition, as a device, repetitious, but I like the comfort of a villanelle. I read slowly and return to lines routinely; so when they are repeated it is a comfort. Perhaps it is my revisiting, undiagnosed autism with a dash of Asperger's. Connor McDonald's 'Before the Law' reminds me of Warhol's Marilyn Diptych or the Elizabeth Taylor or Beatty or Donahue or on and on. It is truly screen-print poetry by an artist who sees something --"4 Minutes to Wapner." I find solace in linear circuitry. Assured to either sooth or unsettle. Note to self: I can't find anything in his labyrinth of lines ungrammatical other than it is bereft of punctuation--after all, I believe he is a lawyer. Now to '*Pop*' it is added for tragic relief. My sights were fixed on the words "not far / or near / enough[.]" (Spacing and font size are poet's own.) HS*

Pop

In
the dark
thought(s)
of what
the mind
thinks of
the sound
of a gun
(or fireworks)
not far
or near
enough

Before the Law

The law is the law is the law
and we will reside
and we will reside in it
and in it we will reside
and it will reside in we that reside
and in we that reside it will reside
and it in we that reside will it reside
and we and it will reside without history
without history as the history is this
as without history the history is this
as the history is this without history
the law is the law is the law
and there is nothing outside
and there is nothing outside of this
and there is nothing outside of this for it to reside in
and there is nothing outside of this for we that reside in it
and there is nothing of it outside we that reside in it
and there is nothing outside for we that reside in it
and there is nothing
as there is no history without it
as without it there is no history
as there is without it no history
as without history there is it
as it is there without history
as the history within is this
the law is the law is the law

THE POET SPEAKS: *Inspirations for *Pop* include the childhood experience of living in disadvantaged neighborhoods and the interplay between reality and imagination. Inspirations for Before the Law include too many hours studying arbitrary rules as a law student. Both works stem from the stylistic influences of Robert Creeley and Gertrude Stein in explorations of the patterns to be found syllable by syllable or idea-phrase by idea-phrase in a stream of consciousness. By the same token, poetry is important to me because I find it an enjoyable (beautiful) way of communicating, not only with others, but also with myself.*

AUTHOR'S BIO: Connor McDonald received his Juris Doctor from Willamette University College of Law. His poetry has appeared most recently in *Wales Haiku Journal*, *Under the Bashō*, and *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*. His nonfiction has also appeared in the *Dante Society of America's Dante Notes*, *Beatdom*, and *bluntly* magazine.