

San Francisco Bioregional Chant

FOR THE SERPENTINE ROCK FOOTING

beneath the sewers and cables
beneath the basements of these buildings

SHOVED UP FROM AROUND SAN LUIS OBISPO AN INCH A YEAR

for the last 60 million years

CHINKING COASTAL FAULTS

BROUGHT THROUGH THE HUGE GENEROUS PRESSURE OF NORTH AMERICA

sliding downhill over the Rocky Mountains

TO MAKE A WARM BAY WHICH SUCKS CLEAN WHITE FOG

off the California Current fed by Asian Kuro Shio

SWEEPING EVENINGS AND MORNINGS HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO

with grey hooded intimacy

A CLOAK FOR EXPECTANT GEOPSYCHICS POISED BESIDE A QUAKE

of the North Pacific Rim

Peter Berg

1974

Invisible Except For a Nervous System

forest bottom
thick layered hemlock and pine pieces
from last fall's roof-breaking wind
grey-brown with torn ends
black rocks floating in needles
clean-edged bright spring green leaves stab through
i want to be less than i am
porous woods light
play over me, warm then cold
hidden birds call tease directions
fly through me
shushing breeze humped field descending in yellow-dotted waves
to the night-filled lake
slide over me deep underground

Peter Berg

Maine

1996

Shasta Bioregion Winter Solstice

December bare branches
leaves underfoot
bottom of winter.

Daylight like embers
holding out.

It all starts up again
without us
flows to spring.

With us
it all returns
like wildness glowing
under ashes.

Peter Berg
1997

Solstice Solo

(for Lew Welch)

climb alone red rocks
pristine hill top
above bay downtown buildings
pull conch shell from bag
blast to find sweet spot
sunset fires spreading
in office windows

how to play for people
from before, are now or to come
uninstructed in chill Pacific wind
on longest summer day

gold dome sparks rose sky
plaintive toots raise heads
quick shakes Amazon rattle
Mediterranean tambourine elbow smacks
look crazy keeping balance

Peter Berg

San Francisco

2003