

MOUNT INQUIRY

19.06.15

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeff Nagy: *Iterable Peak*

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(2015, pink Molotel single-ply, white Molotel quilted quadruple-ply, white LeaderPrice essuie-tout, modified receipt printer, terracotta and wood display vessels, Casino shopping bag, PDFs)

Iterable Peak, Jeff Nagy's new work for Mount Inquiry, presents yet another, though perhaps not the final, critical intervention in the ongoing contemporary recuperation of poetry as art product. Consisting of the artist's heretofore collected poems printed-on-demand in hypoallergenic organic ink on rolls of buoyantly pink Molotel toilet paper, *Iterable Peak* immanently reformulates Barthes' classic problematic of the *readerly and writerly text* in order to collapse its two antithetical poles into a final synthesis, wherein Nagy's canny choice of medium encourages and nearly demands that the end user of his poetry participate in its final form, both linguistic and material, in the course of putting that poetry directly into quotidian use. In a generalized context of corrosive cynicism, microutopic canon-jockeying, and opportunistic bids for a formal eternity, Nagy's *Iterable Peak* insists that poetry in art contexts, by embracing the twin utility and ephemerality largely suppressed in contemporary bodies of work, can yet undertake the humble, humanistic services that were - *and still are* - its generic birthright, in the course of delivering both a high-quality lyric experience and an effective art object that in no way limits its users' plurality of entrances, possible networking opportunities, or p-n-p hermeneutics.

By considering the act of defecation in its creative aspect as a primordial and nearly universal means of mark-making far older than writing or even poetry, one whose usage reaches into pre-historical eras of human life - and even beyond, thus decentering the nature of open-text production to include all the many species equipped with cloacae - *Iterable Peak* becomes a site for the formulation of important questions about how shifts in the ways that marks are made may signal broader trends in poetic reception. These concerns with a deep and universal archive are counterbalanced by *Iterable Peak*'s more immediate notional genealogy, juxtaposing a recuperative inversion of Piero Manzoni's seminal *Artist's Shit* with the exploitative conceptual elegance of Yves Klein's anthropometric paintings, revisiting these precursors to keep from them only what is truly open-handed and soothing to an ecumenical audience.

Concerned that the work be as accessible as possible, Nagy has also provided for variant formats. Sensitive readers are better served by the deluxe edition, of which 12 high-quality quadruple-ply *hors série* signed and numbered on the interior tube. Special printings may be undertaken on LeaderPrice *essuie-tout*, highly suitable for cleaning up any number of domestic messes. A single-sitting-sized sample is available on request made in person until July 1, 2015.

- Roman Achleif

Press and purchase enquiries:
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