

Rosmarie Waldrop

ACQUIRE WITHIN

WANT OF SPACE prevents me, however sharp the winter in Rhode Island. We distinguish between central, or direct, and peripheral vision. Between constant and vapor, picture and whirl. Leaves and fishes. Intimacy at 30 degrees. A protracted childhood, a girl for good. No sudden deviation of a shoal of minnows, no wheeling flock of birds.

Fear of man is slowly acquired. Did not marry and so lived on in her father's house. A stiff chair beside the bed, a candlestick, an illustrated bible. Bone button conduit. Weak from remembering. There is considerable interest in the problems of space perception, of shadows falling outside the fovea. Time moved slowly.

Even in England, the large birds are wilder than the small, having been most persecuted. The door from her room led into another room. All space personal. Instead of historical background, relatives appeared at the window, at eye level. Loaves and dishes. Every retinal point stimulated emits unconscious local signals. The periphery was always hers.

Whereas on uninhabited islands, large birds are not more fearful than the small. She stared vacantly into spaces between floor-boards. Eyes swimming, looking for land. The finger is moved from various parts of the periphery inward. On the bright rectangles of the blinds, the shadow of the pear tree. A heterogeneous assortment of narratives, with a view to illustration, the core of the experience not specific as to location.

Audubon has noted remarkable differences in the nests of the same species. She settled into a space inside herself. It is a peculiarity that a locked door recaptures early loves and wishes. Only by describing the relation between text and picture can she sever her father from her body. This assumes that every peripheral point has a capacity for purpose and heavy lids, but deception is more frequent than change.

URGENT SILT

I WILL NOT ATTEMPT to deflower instinct. For this we'd have to crack the code, cultivate systems of hair. The old man owned three women by marriage, birth, or contract. Only one dream survives, hanging upside down. The parts immediately surrounding the eye must also receive attention. Imagine, if you can, the no man's land the water surrenders and reclaims.

Every one understands that instinct impels the cuckoo to lay her chill in other birds' nests. Narrow as the coffins the old man had made his forethought. The riddle of the dream doesn't have to have a solution, but systematic examination may be divided into a) objective, b) piercing instruments. By the shore, sand under the eyelids. Think how wet a sob long repressed.