
Christian Doumet. *Horde, suite*. Paris: Obsidiane. 1997. 87 pages. 80 FF. ISBN 2-911914-02-3.

With books such as *Les Imrécateurs de Prague* (1987) and *Traité de la mélancolie de Cerf* already under his belt, and having published in 1989 the collection *Horde* whose lines of perception the present volume may be said to continue and develop, Christian Doumet is also the co-author, with François Boddaert of the recent important quasi-manifesto, *Pour affoler le monstre* (1997). *Horde, suite* quickly has us understand the degree to which, for Doumet, poetry offers no ontological *excarnation* (as Bonnefoy writes), always anchoring itself (even if precariously) in terrestrial perspective, *in situ mundi*. The three sectional titles, "Castellaccio," "Pays livré" and "Les Remparts de Sienne," are indicative in this regard, and we are never far from the contemplated experience of stone or insect, mist or shutter, fig-tree or sunset. If, then, we can speak of some felt, believed *retrait* (cf. Derrida, Deguy, etc.) Of being **and** poetry, it is a "movement" simultaneous with their revelation, their *alethia* / inscription. Much, in effect, is tensional, riddled with the paradox in Doumet, as with other contemporary writers, poets and novelists alike: the "désir de finitude" and a haunting sense of the infinite; an equally minimal and maximal conception of human creativity's relation to the Creation; the "loss" entailed in nomination and the reserve available in the unnamed, the unintelligible; the gift of illuminated immanence and the irony of our thought's / text's "struggle" with an "ignorance" "à la recherche d'une entrée au monde;" the at once competing and complementary logics of writing seen as **real** self-structuring and purely **symbolic** description ("enfin se reconstruire et peindre allégorie"). *Horde, suite* is, in effect, very much concerned with authenticity and plenitude, whilst never losing sight of the challenges and fragility that may be said to accompany the articulations of experience, "le peu qu'il extorqu(e) de la beauté du jour." *Horde, suite* is the temporary QED to such equations.

Michael Bishop
Dalhousie University

Richard Rognet. *Lutter sans triomphe*. Nancy: L'Estocade. 1997. 109 pages. 70FF. ISBN 2-910948-01-3.

The writings of Richard Rognet go back as far as 1978 with *L'Épouse émietée* and extend, through the 80's and 90's with books such as *Le Transi* (1985) and *Maurice, amoroso* (1991), to the 1992 volume appearing with Gallimard and the present collection, recipient of the Prix Apollinaire. Rognet's work has a very distinctive