

**a
polemic
study
of
negative
space**

R. Keith

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R. Keith is a persona that works with visuals, texts, poetics, fiction, and exophonic writing. His visual art has been presented in galleries in Canada, Malta and Russia.

Other titles by R. Keith:

Something about flies (Alien Buddha Press)

esquilmar (Inquieto press)

FLOP (Rust Belt Press)

Wild Rose Country (Cajun Mutt Press)

In a Jiffy! (Alien Buddha Press)

El Diario de Cogiendo (inquieto press)

Zugzwang (Alien Buddha Press)

airy nothings (Dink Press)

Some Little Pricks (Alien Buddha Press)

Chicken Scratch (EYEAMEYE Books)

BACKGROUND (inquieto press)

How to design a hail storm (Another New Calligraphy)

Signature Move (Forks Knives and Spoons press)

re: verbs (Bareback editions)

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Here.

A personification of lassitude. The smell of an electrical fire. An empty picture frame.

Out of the clock radio: What type of person would you wish to be?

You say I think that came out the wrong way.

Adulation; this is when you lay in bed and your mind won't shut off

staring inside the picture frame { orange
leaves with loneliness

Staring at blank pages has become a common practice. How to spend a weekend.

fervently; here comes a muse holding a
noose

jarring inside the picture frame { bedtime
stories

The misunderstanding of nothing.
You have witnessed belonging. Touching.
Bellowing. Falling. Flailing. Disintegrating.
Interesting. Dripping. Waiting. Shutting.
Lacking. Twitching.

How exactly does something *Noth*? Will Noth
rhyme with Moth?

atavism; frequently mistaken for a backup plan

foregoing inside the picture frame
{ something resembling obsidian

Belonging on top of a broken piano left out
in a field of dead grass.

Wouldn't you like to know.

despots; when you get your way...

reverberating inside the picture frame
{ hexagon suns

Here and now.

A coy simper. A megaphone drones on and on. The sky resembles a fur coat.

A voice saying You came out the wrong way. The reticent strings which hold up Pinocchio.

bombast; you don't know what you are
(saying)

swelling inside the picture frame { another picture frame

Labouring over the possibility of having Cotard's delusion as if it were the common cold or a fish in a stream hoping to getting hooked.

A megaphone fastened to a clock radio blaring out instructions of how to spend a weekend.

ebullience; for instance, when you wear a bell around your neck

writing inside the picture frame { ancestral
star

A memory of pouring house paint over the snowman you built in the yard when you were seven years old.

Watching a sun sculpting a turquoise blob in the grass when Spring came around.

connoption; you take far too long for anyone to wait

resting inside the picture frame { dandelions
dipped in ink

A sister came to watch ancestral stars.

A sister came to lacerate the nothing out of
clock radio.

A sister came.

A sister came to spend a weekend.

A sister came to say you need a new muse
but instead said Please leave.

festooned; your expectations of anyone understanding what you are trying to say

breathing inside the picture frame { a dirt
road leading to nowhere in particular

Now and then,

Watching the sink drip. A pond made of felt.
A worn map of Bermuda. The personification
of an Adagio. You want to say I'm not like
the other nine to fives but instead you say
My voice has become a kite caught in a dead
tree.

tirade; this is when sorrow shoots her arrows

pondering inside the picture frame { teeth of
lions wrapped in silk

The smell of an electrical fire vespers the evening sky. Towards two words to ward off hexes. Dote. That was then, this is now.

churlish; you don't know what you are
(talking about)

coughing inside the picture frame
{ turquoise leaves, with loneliness

How to spend a weekend – wrap a ball of steel wool inside unsent love letters. Place in microwave 30 mins.

admonish; every so often, a sense of accomplishment

disintegrating inside the picture frame
{ barn owl, the feathers of a

The personification of an empty picture
frame. The personification of wouldn't you
like to know. Scorching a map of Bermuda.

imbibe; every so often a seance of accomplishment

conjuring inside the picture frame { weather
getting greyer and greyer

There and back

A sun yellows pages. Dissonant notes out of
clock radio.

Moths circle. A coy simper is a sign of sexual
frustration.

grotto; your thoughts retreat to bedtime stories

impatiently waiting inside the picture frame
{ sepia, the sounds of

A son yellows teeth. A son bellows now. The personification of miasma. Chin up. So I can punch your throat.

lassitude; 2nd verse, same as the first

droning inside the picture frame
{ something resembling dew

A bell around your neck, wouldn't you like to know. Exaggerating memories you'd rather not have.

louts; you don't know what you are
(messing with)

climbing inside the picture frame
{ something resembling saudade

True or False, Pessimism is a comfort food?

rubric; a wrong answer to your division equation

questioning inside the picture frame { moth
eaten wool

Back and forth

Somnambulism is an act of rage. Semblance is a dog eared page. Balance is another word for cage.

reticent; this is when. This. Right here.

evaporating inside the picture frame { you
leave with loneliness

Giving the slightest notion of authenticity a second chance may very well be a technical error. Then again, it could prove useful in episodes of aposematism. Learn when and how wide to open your mouth the correct way.

convalescence; frequently mistaken for a lack of interest in your peers

rubbing inside the picture frame { an entire
spool of amber thread that tightens around
the joint of your finger

Applause is always optional reaction. Most folks do not understand this.

agog; red rover, red rover, we call silence
over

belonging inside the picture frame
{ something assembling saudade

Kablooey.

diaphanous; you don't know what you are
(missing)

Nothing inside the picture frame {