

THE  
COLLAGE  
POEMS  
OF  
DRAFTS

RACHEL BLAU DuPLESSIS

Also by Rachel Blau DuPlessis

POETRY

*Drafts 1-38, Toll* (Wesleyan University Press, 2001)

*Drafts: Drafts 39-57, Pledge, with Draft, unnumbered: Précis* (Salt, 2004)

*Torques: Drafts 58-76* (Salt, 2007)

*Pitch: Drafts 77-95* (Salt, 2010)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has a backstory. Because of financial and production constraints, *Pitch: Drafts 77–95* (also from Salt Publishing in 2010) could only include the black and white sections of “Draft 94: Mail Art.” “Draft CX: Primer” (entirely in color) is part of my next book, the sixth in the Drafts series. The two works published together here as collage poems thus make a bridge between those two books. A publication grant from the Pew Foundation facilitated the appearance of both works as I intended them, in both color and black & white. I am deeply grateful to the Pew Foundation in every way, as well as to Salt Publishing for the honor of this special hybrid presentation, on the model of the artist’s book. *The Collage Poems of Drafts* would have been impossible without this support.

The conception and some of “Mail Art” was accomplished in February 2007 on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation that allowed me to work at Bellagio, Italy for a month. The collages and poems were completed at the National Humanities Center, North Carolina (2008–09). I extend grateful thanks to Phillip Barron of the National Humanities Center, for his technical help with the final and web presentation of this poem. I am very beholden to him for his help and for his insightful commit-

ment to this project. In addition, to scan my work to go into the final version of this book as a whole, I received interested and expert help from the staff at the Instructional Support Center at Temple University, notably Peter Hanley. “Draft 94: Mail Art” originally appeared in *Jacket Magazine* 37; for this and many other manifestations of his support, I am quite grateful to John Tranter, the editor. “Draft CX: Primer” was composed during the summer of 2009. A few pages of “Draft CX: Primer” have been published in *Beautiful Navigator* and in *Viz: Inter-Arts* in 2010 and 2011.



# MAIL ART



# DRAFT 94: MAIL ART

## INTRODUCTION

*Mail Art* is/was an international artwork activity, emerging from movements like Dada and Fluxus. It was a communication and gift exchange, before internet and email, sent through the post, in which every aspect of the communiqué (from the envelope on in) had a collage aesthetic as well as playful, verbally inventive, and jaunty elements. Among the features that I can't replicate in this work are the joking extra postage stamps often from odd countries like Canadada, the rubber stamps all over envelopes, the extra-national postal services (Fluxpost), and the textual materiality of the collage. However, by the tactic of scanning the works, some of the physical texture is retained. This work is an homage to and recollection of *Mail Art* from inside *Drafts*.



Draft 94: Mail Art

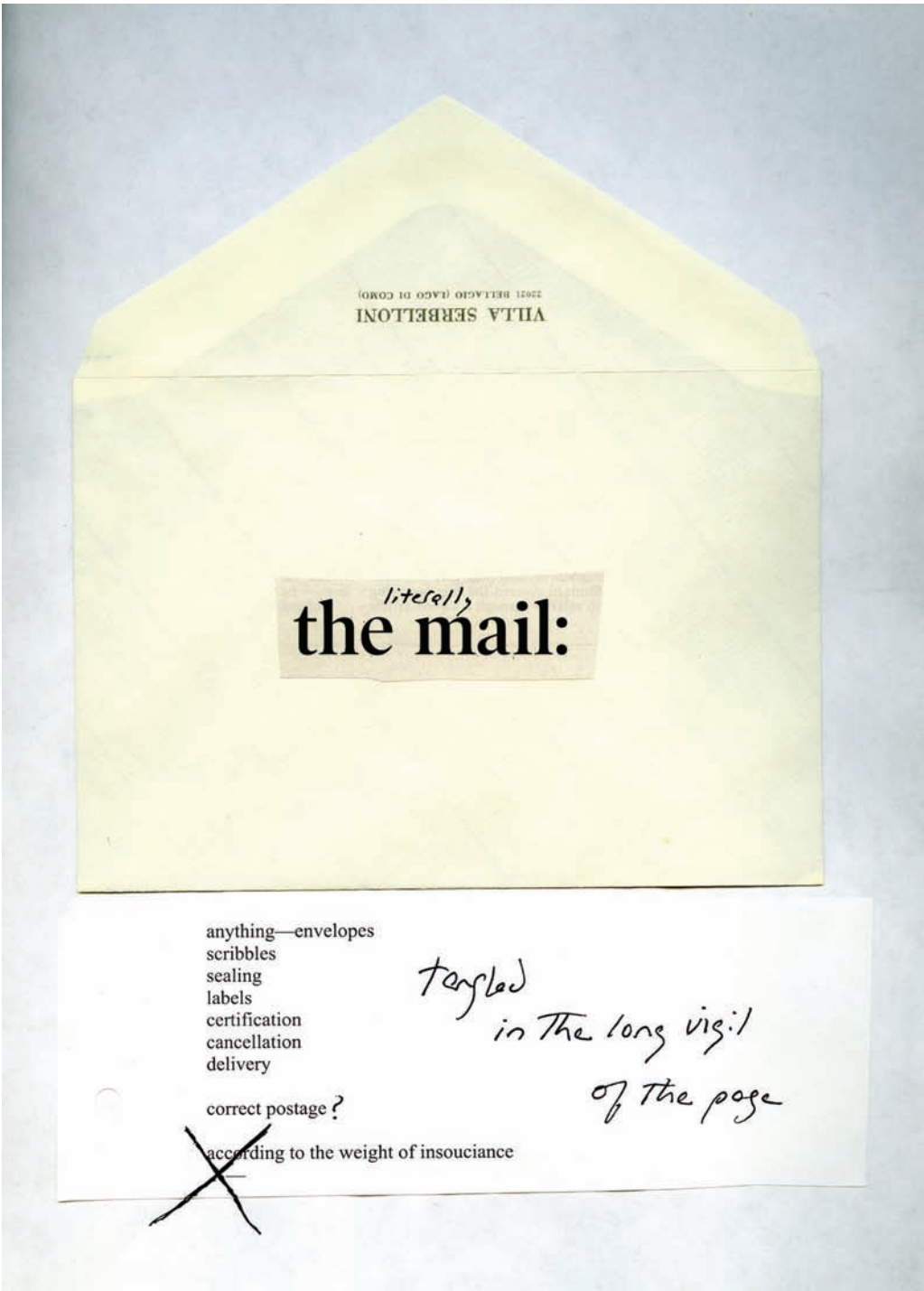


urce  
/fr/findresource  
/T/true  
/F/false  
/d/setdash  
/w/setlinewidth  
/J/setlinecap  
/j/se

note every hour on the hour  
Limen, limen "all these  
little unrelated things"



Ask the letter A  
and it may tell you  
what, then, and where, was the task  
to continue.



Phylacteries of simple letters and texty  
boxes to my head and arm.



But — there's also gender  
twisting the leather thongs.



Really, could tell you all about me.

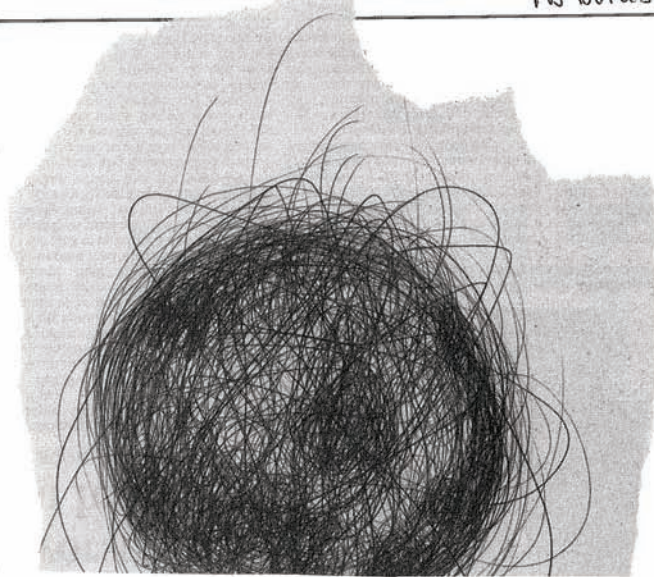
random lines  
burning and dodging techniques  
non-silver printing

a monument to any day  
half-hazardly

OFFICIAL PHOTO

Mo DUPRESIS

*traveling revealing revealing revealing*



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