THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 1 | 1992

RooftopsTom Whalen

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

The Prose Poem: An International Journal is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) for the Providence College Digital Commons. http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/

Tom Whalen

ROOFTOPS

Rooftops have chimneys, angles, eyes, shutters, shingles, whispers, lackings. Sky covers them. Sometimes a shirt flaps out of a mouth. Once I saw an umbrella open on a rooftop and nobody was under it. Pigeons fly into and out of this prose piece whenever the reader senses their need. A church bell, too, can be heard. The higher up you are, the better off you are; this is one of the principles of life, which is very unruly. Not every roof can be walked on, some slants are impossible to traverse; this one, for example. A house, a hat, a bird, a book with its pages uncut. Three dogs and two cats. A tram turning a corner. Vistas, but no visitors. An escapade without water or conjunctions. Is that a painter or a prestidigitator? It's a drainpipe with an umbrella. It's a thumb in the eye. If they weren't mountains, they'd be razor blades. Run your hands over them whenever you can.