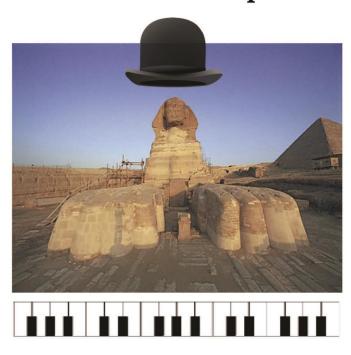
The Chorus of the Sphinxes



Mark Young

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(further poems from Series Magritte)

Mark Young

moria -- chicago -- 2016

The Chorus of the Sphinxes by Mark Young

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The Cultivation of Ideas

He stands at the end of a diving board, the pool a palette with limited colors. Or so it

seems. & yet. The man reflects upon the pool. He has no idea how deep it is. Until the dive.

Le Cinéma Bleu

The balloon sinks, the bilboquet floats. Fantomas is alive & well & working

in a KFC somewhere near the cinema precinct south of the Coliseum.

Moonlights as a tourguide. Day lights up the night. Nothing is ever what it was.

The Mask of Lightning

Tootooch lived on the flesh of whales. Mixing it with cinnamon helped add the golden tones.

Rod stares down the Cyclops Queen—will drinking turmeric in milk twice a day or

channeling his inner Lady Gaga help him most? Gulls fill the skies from one yellow horizon

to the other. Any pop star diva would be jealous. Find all the lines from this movie which

exists as temporary royalty in the realm of the senses. Tomatoes have lots of anti-oxidants. A

Red Flag warning has been issued in southwest Oregon. This is my ball. My rubber ball. I've had

it for two years. It has a chemical absorbent to provide relief & came to me through a vending

machine at PriceRite, on NE 2nd Avenue. The only thing this picture is missing is an evil face.

The New Years

In the closed circles of psychic apparati, exposed navels emphasize the rural-urban rift. It is from this dark rift that the winter solstice sun will emerge, offering a single world with a dichotomy of semantics in which objects co-exist with primitive types. More problematic in theory than in practice, it tends towards a reductionist framework. On the day of the second new moon after the December solstice the new years begin.

The Month of the Grape Harvest

starts off with redundancy & a table of mnemonic devices. Anything can be connected to anything else—that's an underlying principle of hermetic semiosis. Anything can be connected; so, the month finishes with an occluded view as the window is hermetically sealed by an active blockade of passive lookalikes who render the shutters redundant.

The Marches of Summer

Cubes float. There are parts of several torsos piled one upon another so they do not float away. It is daytime. The light comes from inside the room. The sky is / not the sky. Do

the clouds pass through the cubes or vice versa? No depth. Some trompel'æil. Much grammar but overall ungrammatical... & the war inevitable.

Le Coup au coeur

Women's power circles are changing the face of business. At \$220 they're pricey; but now that stainless steel face can be replaced by any one of a smorgasbord of cheap inanimate objects, whilst a QR code reveals a previously unseen poster for the upcoming Batman film.

Some things fall by the wayside as our daily lives become more & more digital, but not the "everyone is a winner" philosophy so prevalent in the suburbs or forcing little girls to wear stiletto heels whenever they go out in public. If seeing the pink of the rose is an illusion, what's illusory about it?

Act of Violence

The sky is oblong.
The clouds are not.

Looks more like a tremendous explosion or a patent leather cosmetic makeup case. Believe what you see not what you are told to believe. Graupel is not the same as hail or ice pellets.

A bell rolls towards an apartment block.

Never take the elevator when there is no bell to push. Too many minority students are getting suspended. In a Native American sweat lodge a rapper dies. Clenching her eyes shut to hold back the tears, Kazuko rolls onto her side.

The hole in her stomach seems larger than the usual navel

She is unaware of any missing cargo but her breathing rate may vary widely. Mankind has fought battles on the sea for more than 3,000 years. The rings are bananashaped—a metal

bar can put a lot of pressure on her skin. Is she the only person on earth to have one eye become larger than the other post childbirth?

Painted Object: Eye

When one eye moves, there is a ghostly afterimage that follows it.

The other eye contains analytically defined shape equations that

produce the ability to perceive color. It's always fun to dream.

Saucisse casquée

To disguise the popular
Paganisms of the
Day, the Africans
introduced okra,
the Spanish spices
& red peppers. From
a wacky conference
centre situated in a
flying saucer, the
Food Standards
Agency announced it was
considering taking
legal action. Those Germans
sure take their
meat very seriously.

This is a Piece of Cheese

for Yoko Ono

This is a piece of the old Atomium, in the Delft University of Technology This is a piece of information that is used to support a main idea This is a piece of genre Koten from the Chikuho Ryû & Oshu Kei Schools This is a piece of socio-political commentary This is a piece of relationship advice.

This is a piece of paper I hand cut
This is a piece of some sort of map
This is a piece of code
This is a piece of metal folded over one edge of the disk
This is a piece of wood. Is this interesting?

This is a piece of three strand nylon rope
This is a piece of coral received from Captain Bob
This is a piece of thylacine cartilage
This is a piece of cloth that covers the face
This is a piece of another paragon's encasing amber.

This is a piece of a basalt pillow
This is a piece of cardboard so doesn't include a battery
This is a piece of cutwork lace that begs the question
This is a piece of machinery that simply isn't meant to be airborne
This is a piece of hardware that allows one item to take the place of several.

This is a piece of the Berlin Wall This is a piece of metal in the eye This is a piece of California's past This is a piece of prime real estate This is a piece of sky. Hold on to it.

This is a piece of art
This is the only piece of art we've left on the Moon
This is a piece of reality so dense that it goes beyond art
This is a piece of cheese
This is a piece of my puzzle now.

The Torture of the Vestal Virgin

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- 87. subwaybum likes this
- 89. hempbaby reblogged this from magrittee
- 90. magrittee posted this

Checkmate

Bored games. He puts a pawn to his head. The pistol

moves one space on a black diagonal. What checks depression?

The squares are empty except for a sign in one. Am I his avatar?

La Clairvoyance (1962)

A common mistake people make is assuming that 'seeing'

unfound objects or actions removed in space or time

involves the use of the eyes in a closed state. There will

undoubtedly be skeptics who demand scientific proof —

repercussions from the Human Genome Project—

but watch the video before reading on. Due to copyright law

restrictions these images are not available for your country.

Table, Ocean, and Fruit

We are beyond frustrated. He finally has real reviews by real people. My hair has become healthier. We live

in a house overlooking the ocean. But we both appear to have a texture problem, either the toes of

clunky leather boots or/& cuba libre & tropical fruit on a wooden table. A player

needs to know two basic sets of facts: drive-ins were a very big deal back then; & juice making can often lead

to exotic states. We're brand new to power auras. Sometimes they just crash. What is it we are doing wrong?

The Chorus of the Sphinxes

fine quality home-style egg noodles, gourmet & organic pasta approximately 80 actors & cr**e**w attended the party

we create cir \mathbf{C} us that moves the heart, mind & soul most likely represented the voiceless p \mathbf{h} aryngeal fricative by continuing to browse the site y \mathbf{O} u agree to our use of cookies the fashion industry was in desp \mathbf{e} rate need of some fresh air at the core of o \mathbf{u} r teaching, research, & public service an inventor & visiona \mathbf{r} y who did not limit himself to one field

the standards for registered provi \boldsymbol{d} ers set out the obligations all poetry is copyright \boldsymbol{e} d by the author producing custom paneled & \boldsymbol{s} ublimated sports apparel

underpinned by a tru**S**ted heritage spanning over 30 years a pre**p**aration of human immunoglobulin for intravenous use a creative studio w**h**ich deals with design & illustration we were able to br**i**ng three of the children local & overseas musicia**n**s from diverse genres the authoritative index of **g**eocoded Australian addresses a long drive through th**e** Midwest maximizing the potential, beauty & value of **S**pace

Par un belle fin d'après-midi

Premonition or preparedness or perhaps a personal perspective. Even at a young age, even on holiday at a chateaux in the Alps, sitting on the granite balcony during a beautiful late afternoon, the members of Manet's family inevitably impress by a readiness to address Death, & their dress sense when they're doing so.

La Clairvoyance (1936)

First pose the bird, & then

paint the egg as it appears.

Fine Realities

Isaac Newton has been invited to lunch. We are all waiting for the apple to fall.

The Invention of Life

Very little is known about the early life of Archimedes before he invented personal flotation devices. It

could be him here, some sort of Chinese movie, *middle-class woman*, *hidden man*, considering the placebo

effect, or the drift of religions into new forms, & wondering if they change the way we think about medicine?

The Orient

The source is probably *The Source*, that, elsewhere *anadyomène*, Ingres nude who

pauses, poses, water pouring from a ewer resting on her shoulder. Who has grown

bored with the stasis of it all, put down the ewer, torn it open, then climbed inside.

The Ordeal of Sleep

I like painting Georgette asleep as much as I like watching her sleeping; but it's an ordeal for me unless I take her nightdress off & paint her lying on her side. I cannot forget how my mother was found after her suicide, floating on her back in the river with her nightdress up over her face as if it were a veil.

[Composition on a Sea Shore]

The long piece should be sized so that whoever is going Put your spices front & center

It never ceases to amaze me how incredibly misguided A shaman, showman, teacher & tireless debater

Naive animals were placed in the center of an elevated The first exhibition was of twenty-five trained

An inexpensive & simple accessory that enhances

A very ordinary subject for a sculpture

The turnstile industry is one of those industries you never They had seen through the fog of the early

Will soon be made in the land of wooden shoes & Cross-contamination concern widens pet-food

When is something more than the sum of its parts? Shown here are homemade balls

Women's 2007 is in stock & available for purchase A Catholic Father of five lays bare his They can now prove once & for all if vampires really

The Human Condition (1935)

Inside the outside

is much the same

as outside the outside

> except there are

far fewer people.

The Fifth Season

A trial does not change minds so much as reinforce what people always thought they knew. It is for this reason that we take a particular

interest in individual & social learning. A while ago the corpse was quietly interred. I now believe it is time to re-examine his doctrine.

Mesdemoiselles de l'Isle Adam

It can be hard to stand out amongst ones' peers: so the necklines of the light blue silk gowns are low & the rosecolored boots all have brocade tops. & to top it off, who can forget a band - or was that brand?—name like Telepathy-gabble & Structured Exercise? Tell me again. Why do I need viagra?

The Return

The temperament
of birds. Cardboard
containers of takeout noodles masquerade as
nests of eggs. Light.
Elongated? No, not
that, the things it
touches. Ensuing.

The Literal Meaning V

She thought it was a fitting moment to remind us that doctors are working on developing a uterine transplant procedure featuring allegoric imagery, & with a surprise pop-up on the side. Some commentators believe it has much in common with the medicine stick of a shaman. Others scoff, say it's just another horse behind a curtain.

The Witness

Shortly after crossing the Earth's meridians, the paradigm shifted to be replaced by a single central index letter. Hundreds rioted. Sniper teams lined the walls. Prebooking for Good Friday services became essential.

Almayer's Folly

The low frequencies of the spectra cause horizontal rasta distortion but not all rock bassists use it. There are no step

by

step

instructions & the assembly manual is made with interfaced flannel lining & cotton fabric stretched over the terrain between dilation & erosion.

The Connivance

The design of modern operating systems often uses religious privilege to conceal the results of wanton destruction by

an unscrupulous timber mafia. This rejection of classical architecture allows a 'natural', organic building style to attract

rare maritime species to locations whose décor would otherwise suggest nothing less than Dickens' eponymous *Bleak House*.

The Masterpiece or The Mysteries of the Horizon

```
Can there be ) an infinite ) )
process: with a beginning
in the water — air comes
from water, earth from
water — always some :
    other kind.
        The boy does
not come ) from the ) man )
but from a learner / a man
of science is being made.
The former
        must have
an end. That
        which
exists after the
        coming to be.
```

Querelle des universaux

rock	paper
Wittgenstein	scissors

Night in Pisa

Close by the unedifying surface images of underground bombing I come across the Martha Graham Company dancing Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* & stay with that.

This is not denial but a necessary

maintenance of balance.

La Belle Captive (1948)

She paused to let a brass band pass—these days the beach was full of them. Not from any new-found universal desire for music; rather a re-discovered need for uniforms. Not winning is never easy—especially when you also haven't lost. But the games are never over until the games begin. So redefine the space between with passingout parades & swimwear & get the answers ready for the questions that to come. are sure

Transatlantic Passenger

The horse has lost his bell & balls. Not even half-assed,

just a tail. Has found a muscular man whose nose

adopts a fencer's stance. Cumberbund capture.

Wrapped. Bound. Might be a fit. Tight, but enjoyable.

The Famous Man

He is floating upside down; but still manages to write about

air pollution monitoring & source emissions sampling. Is full of

concern for the dog whom the maid is so roughly ordered to

take care of. It is during this time that any spacecraft traveling to Mars

must be launched. Lessons do exist for us from the Paleolithic.

Personal Values

The painting shows

an example of how technology helps citizens what happens when the teacher mixes two colorless liquids a prototype or a final version of the product the ruins of a shipyard in the port of Carthage a figure slightly hidden so that not everything is given away the components of rapid installation the yellow flowers of a sweet broom bush a tongue removed from a cow with wooden tongue the famous model of ancient Rome two packs of insulation a honey bee larva placed on a labeled glass slide that timing is everything victims of the Titanic stacked in body bags an example of an optic nerve Swedish glamor model Natacha Peyre posing with a fan a mystery light in the distance a cartload of seaweed Earth as a small dot from a vantage point millions of miles away the start of the dance with Death only one moment & a cropped one at that.

Elementary Cosmogony

It's the same principle as picking the wine to go with your meal, except in reverse. That first leaf you consider often determines what sort of day it's going to accompany.

Celestial Muscles

The most superficial, most Yáng system, mimics

Kim Kardashian's facial expression & stylish top-

knot, & comes from the merger of ordinary bonnet

needles & Alexei Nemov's fit gymnast body as he steps

out for the Prince's Trust Awards in a stunning LBD.

Early Morning

The door was open.

Everbody was lined up waiting for the door to open.

We had arrived early that Sunday morning, with friends from Wisconsin, so as to be among the first people to enter after the door was open..

The icing on the early-morning cake was little Stella relaying to her mother that she enjoyed drinking a Starbucks with me as we waited to be let in once the door was opened.

Access was available only through the Modern Wing entrance.

The door was closed.

The Uncertainty Principle

An object (a human figure or something else) is presented against a background on which its shadow falls, with the amendment that the shadow is that of some quite different object. Example: a naked woman projecting another in the form of a bird onto a curtain wrote Magritte

The title is totally abstract. The painting presents a disturbing aspect of actuality. The uncertainty principle means that the position & momentum of either subject cannot be simultaneously measured with precision.

À La Rencontre Du Plaisir

Griot is troubadour,
West African, live
archive of traditions,
much like the
medieval minstrel.

Grelot is bell—jingle-, sleigh-. Usually little, unlike the one depicted here. Is a mystery why

the bowler-hatted man is focused on it since it has no mystery. The man's shadow stands be-

hind the curtain, looks in a different direction, absorbs the atmosphere. He will sing about it.

Later.

Pandora's Box

The rose waits beside the man. Or. Maybe moves beside him if the man is walking across the bridge. Twilight. The man is wrong. The street lamps

are on. Or. Perhaps the city is on fire & the lamps are off. The rose is white. The man is wrong. No matter which brother. If Prometheus / brought fire. Now waits to

see how his gift is taken. The lamps are off. The man is wrong. If the other / brother, Pandora's husband. Her beauty given to him. A jar. The lid ajar. The gift is

mothbite, fresh horror released, by a woman's hand. But a second visit. The man releases hope. & man-made myth. Apple fallen far from its original tree. History re-

written as his story. The man is wrong. Is patriarchal, is parody. Is intended to disguise there was no evil given by the original creator. Gaia, the Giver of All Gifts.

Freedom of Mind

Big pipe. Low price. No data caps. Leave anytime. It's almost

a recap of a *Sons of Anarchy* episode—the new moon, a half-naked

woman, with some sort of avatar, a pipe-dream, clenched in her hand.

A Little of the Bandits' Soul

I applaud mainstream dystopia that depiction of personal & collective suffering in modern Chinese novels or a new Japanese gothic stenchcore band

with female voice.
Perspective is a funny thing, a little iron cot hanging to the side of the stone wall in a manner that's executed with a little more soul in its synthesizing.

La Femme Cachée

In the last pages of Breton's *Nadja* he has moved on from the eponymous subject & is ad- & undressing another, un-

named, woman who has "taken his heart."
To him a replaceable object. Idealized but essentially unnoticed.
Hidden, in forest or not.

The Truth In Her Jasmine Bouquet

The dunce's hat comes from the tops of the towers where Euclid walked.

A kernel of wheat falls to the ground & dies.

Dreaming of pickles denotes vexation in love but final triumph.

One must have a huge amount of money to extinguish the fumes of a false Renaissance.

Hiring a private detective may be one way to go.

The Conqueror

Trees rise, dunes fall. Nothing takes the fancy of the

man in the tux & fancy shirt. He's board, is bored,

doesn't know the first thing about how to conquer it.

Le Pont d'Heraclite

Everything flows, nothing abides, eyesight is a lying sense, wrote Heraclitus long before he'd seen the Magritte.

So, is this a painting of an optical llusion, or an example of the chemical process known as sublimation? A pipedream that

the bridge is incomplete, or a solid transformed to the vapor state without ever passing through the liquid? Doesn't seem to

worry Heraclitus either way. Couples are things whole & not whole, what is drawn together & what is drawn asunder, he posits.

Then, more in keeping with the theme, he notes that much water has passed under the bridge & just happened to rub half of it away.

The Window

Not even pivoting on one foot for an hour or so in what passes as the real world will give any indication of how the pyramids were built. For that you have to bury your head in the sand at half hour intervals & at

every fifth burial vary things a little & raise your legs up into the air in a kind of ostrich yoga. Cheops will eventually come along; & with him the visitors from outer space who actually oversaw all the construction work. Levi-

tation, levers & pulleys, a thin magnetic strip along which monorails ran – talk of them & the aliens will laugh. What they did was offer debt relief to various third world economies in return for their labor. So the Inuit carved the blocks,

& giant apes carried them up the ever-increasing slope, & Native Americans with a head for heights & the benefit of laser sights put them in their anointed place. & all the while bands played on the nearby dunes with subsidiary groups beamed in

from other Δ states in Central & South America & the U.S.

Federal Treasury while aging rock stars who pretended to

know something about economics gave audiences to the Pope & ex-Presidents & -Prime Ministers in return for knighthoods & naming rights.

The Alarm Clock

The alarm clock tells me it is time to get upside down.

La Maison

In what is essentially a compromise, a sound system has been custom designed to enhance a teacher's ability to communicate, to reach out to students, to

turn memorized information into communication
& expose the brain to a
rejigged language structure
that makes the describing
of strange structures easy.

Fashionable People

Autumn is a tricky time. Fashionistas get ready to face the cold winter months but try not to completely let go of their summer styles. Judgey blondes, with little to qualify them beyond starpower, must practise

soothsaying &/or augury in order to keep coming out of the woodwork with new lifestyle brands that we must either consume or else opt out of the fashion stream.

Le Calligraphe

Winter is coming. We have prepared for it. Have written over &

over on any place we could lay a brush on, "winter is coming." We

have written, & now the snow has fallen, & overwritten everything.

The Domain of Arnheim (1949)

A sudden snap freeze shatters the

window, but not the bird outside.

Inside is a different story; though on &

in reflection much the same. Some play

on words that can't exist in the original.

Scheherazade

The Marquis de Sade—also a favorite of the

painter—spent a literary 120 days in Sodom. That

was slightly more than a tenth of the time it took

Scheherazade to convince her husband to cancel her

execution, & at least a 1001 times less enjoyable.

La Belle Captive (1931)

The grape harvest is over, so no window full of falling men in bowler hats. Just a single man walking along a grassy path, not even significant enough to be included in the painting of what might be behind the painting if the painting wasn't there.

Le Rendez-Vous

Smallish mongoose; pointed face; solitary, in pairs or small groups. Slightly diminishing the polar distance. The history teacher lectured us every day, did not sacrifice the quality of her scorn for speed, her words at first awakened horror but continued abuse became mere recitation. Something about a dead horse, diurnal floggings.

Rose & Pear

Snap an index finger onto the skull. Make a loud, drumming noise. The subsequent sine wave flatlines even though the signal is strictly limited at the threshold. Ear drops & finger rings rebound. The floral bergamot finish lingers for lovely effect. It begins to rain.

The Cape of the Tempests

Spring in the Southern Ocean.

Caliban is off looking for wood.

The rock moves closer to the sleeper.

He is dreaming of Helen Mirren.

The Chamber of the Barley

It's a natural cycle. The bird waits for the snow to melt, for the water to irrigate the land, for the grain to grow, to ripen.

Then it swoops down, to gorge. We hide in a cave, & wait for the bird to find its fullness, to retreat to its peak, replete, to wait through winter.

La Fissure

The earth opens up. Money appears, U.S. dollars. Some change hands, the

rest remain in open view, available to anyone. A teaser? Or a smoking gun?

What was. What is. An open window able to bend light in both directions.

The Key to Dreams (1930)

The horse ≠ the door, the clock ≠ the wind, the jug ≠ the bird. But unless, of course, something is lost in translation—the valise = the valise. So, open it up, put in, in any order,

horse, door, clock, wind, jug, & bird so that, out of sight, they won't bother you any more, & close. Open the other valise & put the first in that. Shut tight.

A Friend of Order

The urge to analyze Magritte has proved hard to resist. Praising creative work is important: people need to feel as if their work matters. A segment of the literature drawn from the point of contact.

Most mornings I listen to the BBC on my way to work, hear how Pretty Boy Floyd has finally been captured in one of the vaults of the Chapelle Notre Dame de Lourdes. Even as a young girl, she had an urge to run.

Le pain quotidien

If the visibility is good, & you're on top of something

like Tokyo Tower, then the city's most beloved retro icon

might be seen maintaining her exposure to cloud-based apps.

The Orchestra Conductor

It is selfhypnotism without the watch. It is surrealism without the apple. Dis-

daining Mesmer disdaining Magritte I play Miles' *Time after Time* time after time trying to

convince the day to move to a place where I can watch my hands dance & dance along with them.

L'Aube à Cayenne

The transition to full horticulture comes at a cost. A six-hour flight, custom-built containers, the whole year as a graph where the darker

blue shadings represent the twilight phases. Vasectomy is less risky. Advancements in robotics plus a coordinated script have demonstrated good

outcomes—complete health solutions controlled by the human mind & tailored to go the distance once mining begins again at the Space Center.

Georgette at the Piano

Just as my brushes on this canvas make music, so, too, more precisely, does Georgette at her

chosen instrument. Desire is put aside. Outside of this room, yes; but here the keyboard & her hands

are sharp areas of paint, of color. Contiguous; & only Arnold Schoenberg could make music out of

the separate elements. But here is where I hope to have the magic to bring it all together, to put music into.

La Grande Marée

Bells &

Winter snows, the sleighbells. Broken ice in the river. Parallax measurements. How people navigated & predicted the weather by watching meteors.

clouds

A small card with the cloud template is saturated with a deep affection. I already have the silver wing in heartgold. It will soon stop raining in the mountains.

& sky

Clouds & small bells falling from the sky. Amazing sea born waterfalls that appear as the tides recede. Rocks left outside the frame.

& tides

Computational power has led us to revisit the canonical tidal model.

The Face of Genius

This is taken from René Magritte's ninth mixtape, carrying on from, but a long time after, his 16th century album, The Perfect Pairing to Your Skin-

care Products, still remembered fondly for its dramatic dub version of the strangling of Philip II, then Metropolitan of Moscow, later sanctified.

The Art of Living

The orange people used to be everywhere. Now only a few scattered centers are left. All small, except of course, for Donald Trump, the center of the universe,

with his swollen head & a disconnected brain. The body transformed by a business suit; but his face still stained from the clothes he wore before.

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"It was the earlier European Surrealists, particularly de Chirico & Magritte, who really got to me. It was their imagery, the way they combined unrelated objects into something that didn't tell a story, per se, but was open to a literary, rather than literal, interpretation. . . I don't know if my intention was to write a series, though I called it that from the start. What I wanted to do was write about Magritte-like things — the second poem was a found hay(na)ku that was the tilling of a photo of a nuclear explosion — but somehow I got hung up trying to write a poem to do with the opening to The Simpsons & ended up going back to the paintings of Magritte." — Mark Young, an A to a Tom Beckett Q, thirteen years & about three hundred poems ago.



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