

# Some Notes on Speculative Poetry/on Tarot Poetics

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THE ACT OF WRITING POETRY/of sweating memory/desire/brain froth/translations of the unutterable/is never a solitary endeavor/for ghosts haunt the blood ink . . . but writing Tarot poems/which i did during the 2023 and 2024 Bergamo conferences/based on readings of conference participants by Morna McDermott McNulty/using her original Tarot deck of curriculum theory concepts (for a thorough exploration of this process and its theoretical possibilities see McNulty, M. M., Barros, S., & Daspit, T. [in press])/is an act of speculation/of fictive futures/manifested via an irreproducible crucible of geography and time/the individual being read/the Tarot reader/the cards tattooed with text and images/and the poet/all “naked on thin ice” (Daspit, 1994)/all focused on horizons where future melds with past and present/a poetic embodiment of *currere*/where invisible words reveal themselves on journal pages/from fingers massaging typewriter keys/from dialogic encounters of Tarot readings/from voyeuristic translations in the ether/of the ether/poetry navigates subterranean labyrinths/climbing into unfolding epiphanies/words and images on cards transmuted/each reading spontaneous/unpredictable/paths to hitherto impossible knowledges/poems surfacing from affective registers of experiences/of future memories.

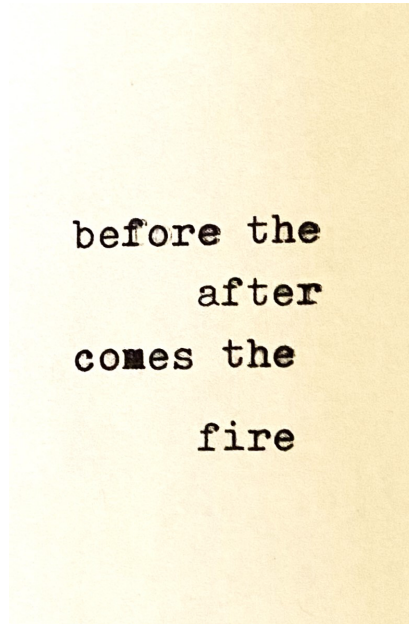
## References

- Daspit, T. A. (1994). The poet. *The Quarterly*, 30, 78. Knopf.  
 McNulty, M. M., Barros, S. & Daspit, T. (in press). “Before the after comes the fire:”  
 Tarot aesthetics as feral inquiry. *International Review of Qualitative Research*.

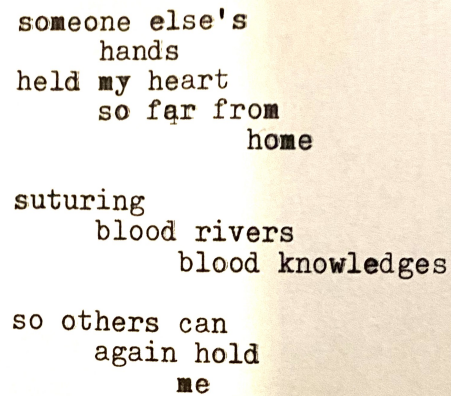
## Sample Speculative Poetry

*The following poems and images were created during individual Tarot card readings hosted at Bergamo 2023 and 2024 during which spontaneous poems were created utilizing the cards,*

*concepts and collaborative exchange between Morna (reading the cards), the “readee” (participant). See McNulty et al (in press) for more details about that process.*



*(“before the after” Individual reading, Bergamo 2023)*



someone else's  
hands  
held my heart  
so far from  
home

suturing  
blood rivers  
blood knowledges

so others can  
again hold  
me

*(“Before the after,” Individual Reading, Bergamo, 2023)*

*something went wrong*

**The geography of time**

**Milwaukee and Monteaale and Bloomington and Bergamo weaving**

**Always evolving**

**hikes and weed**

**And the naked interplay of audience and performer**

**personal and political senses of meaning and unmeaning**

**Transcending institutions**

**privilege and gift**

**serendipitous troubling methods**

**finding the changing why**

*(Oops something went wrong, Open Plenary Group reading, Bergamo, 2023)*

