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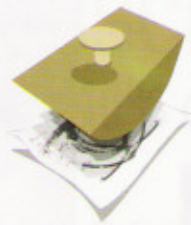
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## VERBAL RORSCHACH

These pieces were inspired by the Verbal Rorschach in *Speakeasy's* winter issue: Tangle, Weather, and Discrete.

### At the Grammar School Dance

The synonyms clustered contentedly in one corner, the palindromes looked each other up and down, and the onomatopoeias clunked and clattered on the dance floor. "I don't care **whether** we fox-trot, samba, or **tango**, let's just be **discreet**," said one homophone to another as they headed toward a dark corner, drawn together by a strange link that they could not understand but could not deny.

—Randy Wedin  
Wayzata, Minnesota

To the Weather Gods,  
We surrender! We will never, ever, diss you again.  
A small request: can we have a break to discretely disentangle?  
And could we ask, most humbly, that in the future you be more discreet?

Most respectfully yours,  
Planet Earth

—Betty Prisendorf  
Merritt Island, Florida

### Arrival

Discrete  
among the world's tangle  
at the corner of Fourth and Adamantine,  
  
an interminable waiting.

The light changes.  
You cross the River Jordan, surprisingly  
like pavement,

arrive on the opposite curb  
to find  
the weather not at all what they predicted—

silver of water and sun,  
every wound healed.

—Marilyn Robertson  
Felton, California

### We Traverse Afar (1975)

A single virus particle initiates  
each discrete plaque: a macroscopic  
focus of sloughed cells—a dead star  
passing light through its  
violet-stained cell culture sky.

So we follow that light.  
pipettes flash: we measure and titrate,  
infect, incubate, harvest; we  
calculate, refine and replicate.  
Eyes sparkle with the project's

fever—and finally, we present  
our miracle of intent—one luminous  
aliquot per tiny vial. Hope  
to scatter over the earth—like glitter,  
like adjuvant stars of salvation.

—Martha Bigalk  
Duluth, Minnesota

Now it's your turn. Let your imagination loose and see how the ink splatters with the following words:

Clavicle  
Garage  
Leap

Send us your poem, rant, riff, word collage, or meditation inspired by one or more of these Verbal Rorschach words, and you may see yourself in print in our summer issue.

Mail your entry by April 15, 2005, to *Speakeasy*, The Loft Literary Center, 1011 Washington Avenue South, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55415, or e-mail us at [speakeasy@loft.org](mailto:speakeasy@loft.org).