Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies

Volume 7 Issue 1 *Today's Global Flâneuse*

Article 8

6-1-2009

she's walking . . .

Henry Gwiazda

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cortland.edu/wagadu

Part of the History of Gender Commons, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons, Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons, and the Women's Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

Gwiazda, Henry (2009) "she's walking . . .," *Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies*: Vol. 7: Iss. 1, Article 8.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.cortland.edu/wagadu/vol7/iss1/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Cortland. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Cortland. For more information, please contact DigitalCommonsSubmissions@cortland.edu.

she's walking . . .

Henry Gwiazda

Minnesota State University Moorhead



A woman, in her early thirties, is walking on the sidewalk of a suburban neighborhood. The houses are identical architecturally with slight differences only in color. She is wearing white cotton pants and a light green sweater with a twill texture. Her brown hair is up.

She walks for four seconds in a straight line, stops, folds her arms and looks to her left,

(indistinct sound of distant traffic from a highway)

lowers her left arm almost 90 degrees and turns her neck also to the left.

She is looking at a house across the street. It has two levels with a porch in front. As she looks, the sunshine on the roof gradually increases. A gold Audi comes down the street in the lane closest to the house and the sunshine diminishes.

(traffic sounds end)

The car passes by.

The woman slowly stretches both her arms out and turns to her right about 35 degrees. There is an embankment about five feet high that rises suddenly from the sidewalk. On this embankment, some 15 feet from her is another house, identical to the one across the street. Because of the sun's angle, the side of the house facing her and the porch is in shadow. Through a large glass window she can see inside the house. The only sign of life is a dog on the porch. It's a grayish color with its front half in shadow and its rear half in light. It is motionless. She can also see part of the back porch of the next house up the street.

(Propeller airplane in the distance, the sound gradually getting louder for about 5 seconds)

A soccer ball arches gracefully in the air in the backyard.

(sound of traffic passing on an adjacent highway added to the airplane sound)

She turns and continues walking; the light on the sidewalk in front of her gets brighter. She stops, places her hands on her stomach and leans forward as if to look at something on the ground. To her left, a cloud's shadow is moving very slowly, making the street darker and darker. As it reaches the roofs of the houses, a black man on a bicycle passes slowly from left to right going up the street. He is wearing maroon shorts and a white, short sleeve sweatshirt.

(sound of several birds)

The woman is now standing in a driveway that inclines 45 degrees up to a covered carport. She is looking at a bush on the right side of the driveway. Suddenly, she continues walking up the driveway toward the house. She stops in front of a large window divided into four panes and kneels on one knee, looking into the house.

In the house a man is standing, practicing electric guitar. He is bald, in his early thirties, wearing brown trousers and a white shirt buttoned up to the neck. The guitar is a reddish brown color. The interior of the house is sparse and modernist.

As he lifts his right hand almost imperceptibly to strike the strings, the woman lowers her head as if looking at the carpet in the house.

The guitarist moves his left wrist and finger almost at the top of the fret board, obviously using vibrato on a note we do not hear because of the closed windows. At the same time, two things occur:

(the sound of an airplane passing from left to right)

(a light shines on the guitarist's white shirt moving from right to left, then back to the right, changing shape, getting smaller until it comes to rest on the guitarist's chest)

He raises his head to look at the woman—

After a short pause, the woman stands up slowly, turns right and continues down the space between the house and a carport. Leaning against one of the carport's posts is a bicycle. She arrives in the backyard, which contains a shallow wading pool, a small outdoor covered sitting area, and a dog. The dog is sitting, facing the house and looking to its right. The woman sits down on the cement walkway. From the backyard, she can see a raised road or highway about a half mile away. Between the backyard and the raised highway is a smaller hill with sparse trees.

As the woman looks to her left the dog twists its head slightly.

(the sound of a bee)

A car appears on the berm going from left to right, the woman and dog turn to face each other, the dog looks down, and the woman raises her hand to the dog. At the same time the overall light on the ground gets brighter, causing a subtle shadow from one of the posts of the sitting area to appear on the grass.

(the bee stops)

Another car travels from right to left while the dog twists its head as if confused. The woman lowers her hand, looks to her left again and the sky darkens slightly, making the shadow disappear.

A third car travels from left to right, the light brightens quickly, the dog moves its front right leg up and to the left slightly, and looks up at the woman.

(the sounds of several bees)

The woman turn her head back to the dog, raises her hand, the light darkens, the dog looks to its right again while keeping its right front leg raised. (the sound of the bees stops)

The woman looks up to her right at the sky while keeping her hand raised at the dog.