

erica kaufman
Two Poems

e-flux journal #122 — november 2021 [erica kaufman](#)
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01/04

x

PARA CLASSIC*for/after AR*

begin this year split between behavioral
finance and biblical story hint

of altruism anxiety in the context
of text to begin beyond a place

where people die it rains without
emphasis light bulb inside location

of audience of person a caterpillar first
digests itself then turns to adult structures

a puzzle to hold boring theory and other feelings
like the rush of not jumping simply

from train to train begin with frustration
and empty chairs a variety show conglomerate

of the kind that seeks competence not talent
broken axioms in place of an eyeball here

is distance then faith then exile appears
a tree metaphor so listen please

i'm no longer preoccupied hijack
the model who sits to argue shadows active

pipelines get proximate to my own history
the chemistry behind how we become archaic

a melancholy sailor a pedestrian mall
overwhelmed by concrete all small things

wield importance purely to create
new codes resilient and vibrant

NIGHT HAMSTER*for JC, DW, BB*

i don't pay attention to
hope anymore horse becomes
landmark only statement
of catchphrases stolen the ladies
know i don't sleep much
resist causality i'm cold in
front of the fire occupy gesture
documentation asynchronous
couch meaning in pharmacies
totes rigidified like the museum
on juden strasse full of what
look like ancient clothes
i'm really aware of how identity
shudders as if line dancing
through omniscient points of view
i want to know how to say
you can't blame homophobia
on natural disasters so instead
panic on flatbush realize we're all
increasingly fallen impose
questions dead leaves this coterie

Poet, writer, and teacher **erica kaufman** is the author of three books of poetry: *POST CLASSIC*, *INSTANT CLASSIC* (both from Roof Books), and *censory impulse* (Factory School). She is coeditor of *NO GENDER: Reflections on the Life and Work of kari edwards* and a collection of archival pedagogical documents, *Adrienne Rich: Teaching at CUNY, 1968–1974*. kaufman is one of the writers of *Midwinter Constellation* (Black Lawrence Press, forthcoming), a collaboratively composed work celebrating the 40th anniversary of Bernadette Mayer's *Midwinter Day*. kaufman is the director of the Bard College Institute for Writing & Thinking and Visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities.

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