

Mark J. Mitchell

Tertiary Magnetism

Homage to Breton and Souppault

Remove
one degree and demons
will slide from your eyes
cool as tears
leaving strange formations
in their wake.

*

Look—
she is bound to the red
chair by hostile truth. Her dress
is torn into coded messages
while fingers tap out
Latin words against
wet paint.

*

We do not
need guns here just
tired knives and sharp
kisses that refuse to meet
parallel lines bleed towards
receding waters and they
resent our desires.

*

Tomorrow
is a game she wants
to play but rules
smell too much of pine tar
and ennui She will stay
tied up and happy
in her very red chair.

*

All of this
happened before
any of us
were born All
of this
will happen again
and it always
reeks of mirrors.

Mark J. Mitchell's latest novel, *The Magic War* just appeared from Loose Leaves Publishing. He studied writing at UC Santa Cruz under Raymond Carver and George Hitchcock. His work has appeared in the several anthologies and hundreds of periodicals. Three of his chapbooks—*Three Visitors* (Lent, 1999) and *Artifacts and Relics* and the novel *Knight Prisoner* are available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.. He lives with his wife the activist and documentarian, Joan Juster and makes a living pointing out pretty things in San Francisco.