

# 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.