

Project Whitman

[Compositional notes and text]

performers enter the installation

long long silence

emptiness

**at the wrong moment woman vocalizes full voice on an even pitch
for 30-plus seconds
(a dumb sound, a wrong sound, a sound that fills space with an
awkwardness)**

silence

emptiness

at wrong moment man begins speaking

I celebrate myself

I loafe and invite my soul

I lean and loafe at my ease

*My respiration and inspiration ... the beating of my heart ... the passing
of blood and air through my lungs,*

The sound of the belched words of my voice

*The feeling of health ... the full moon trill ... the song of me rising
from bed and meeting the sun.*

Stop this day with me and you shall possess the origin of all poems

silence

emptiness

**at the wrong moment woman vocalizes full voice on an even pitch
for 30-plus seconds
(a dumb sound, a wrong sound, a sound that fills space with an
awkwardness)**

silence

emptiness

at wrong moment man begins speaking

**once or twice during the following sequence of text woman at
wrong moment vocalizes on an even pitch for 5 to 10 seconds**

(a dumb sound, a wrong sound, a sound that fills space with an awkwardness)

*I have heard what the talkers were talking,
urge and urge and urge,
always the procreant urge of the world.
Sure as the most certain sure, Stout as a horse, affectionate, haughty,
electrical,
I and this mystery, here we stand.*

*Clear and sweet is my soul ... and clear and sweet is all that is not my
soul.
While they discuss I am silent, and go bathe and admire myself.*

*Trippers and askers surround me, people I meet ... the effect upon me of
my early life ... the city I live in ... the nation, the latest news ...
discoveries, inventions, societies, my dress, looks, the real or
fancied indifference of some man or woman I love. Or loss or ill doing
or lack of money or depression or exaltations ...
They come to me many days and nights and go from me again, but they are
not the ME myself.*

*Apart from the pulling and hauling stands what I am, stands amused,
complacent, compassionating, idle, unitary, looks down, is erect, looks
with its sidecurved head curious what will come next ...both in and out
of the game and watching and wondering at it.*

I have no mocking or arguments ... I witness and wait.

I believe in you my soul ... loafe with me on the grass ...

silence

emptiness

**at the wrong moment woman vocalizes full voice on an even pitch
for 30-plus seconds
(a dumb sound, a wrong sound, a sound that fills space with an
awkwardness)**

silence

emptiness

at wrong moment man begins speaking

*Loose the stop from your throat, not words, not music, or rhyme I want
... nor custom or lecture, not even the best ...only the lull I like, the
hum of your valved voice.*

*I mind how we lay in June, you settled your head athwart my hips and
gently turned over upon me and parted the shirt from my bosom bone and
plunged your tongue to my barestrip heart and reached till you felt my
beard, and reached till you felt my feet. Swiftly arose and spread*

around me the peace and joy and knowledge that pass all the art and argument of the earth.

It is time to explain myself.

Undrape ... you are not guilty with me, nor stale, nor discarded.

The clock indicates the moment, but what does eternity indicate?

All forces have been steadily employed to complete and delight me.

Now I stand on this spot with my soul. There is that in me ... I do not know what it is, but I know it is in me.

Wrenched and sweaty ... calm and cool, then my body becomes, I sleep ... I sleep long.

Do I contradict myself? Very well then ... I contradict myself.

I am large ... I contain multitudes.

This is the press of the bashful hand, this is the murmur of yearning.

Do you guess I have some intricate purpose?

Well I have.

Do you take it I would astonish?

This hour I tell things in confidence I might not tell everybody but I will tell you ...

silence

emptiness

at the wrong moment woman sings beautifully for over a minute

silence

emptiness

performers exit the installation