

TWO POETS FROM BERKELEY

Ron Silliman is the author of two poetry pamphlets — 3 SYNTACTIC FICTIONS FOR DENNIS SCHMITZ and MOON IN THE 7TH HOUSE (Gunrunner) — and the editor of ALPHA SORT. He and his wife Rochelle Nameroff live in Berkeley. She writes poetry and has studied with Denise Levertov at the University of California (Berkeley).

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by Ronald Silliman

The time was the place was the sea was the government:

sadly I came to the family: their perfect house, their perfect curtains, their
perfect lace like the eyes of a girl on the world:

I could live like the dead, I had the manners:

what the rooms became: valleys, canyons, a desert, different people:

always the bookish ones, they have to hold still

(UNTITLED POEM)

The
stone does not burn. glows
like ash

ask questions

it is a bad time, gulls heavy
in air,

sluggish

fires go out

of the mouths comes the revolution
the trap

WAR POEM

by Rochelle Nameroff

Vicarious: too

many

virtual separations

coming upon mountains sepulchral enough

to frame the occupied
ventricle hammer like false
hooded remains in a

fable who repeals the pounding

(the socket the temple the forest the kingdom)

insidious how separate

to take each pure tracing like films
off a willow branch peel of the

Angostura bark. Balmany herb. Blackberry leaves.

so slow pull the foxhole over so

slow repeal the speakers o hear
the flow the groundwave of hillocks.