mouth

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rachel schenberg

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written to accompany the exhibition *mouth mouth* with artists ceel mogami de haas, miriam kongstad, toon fibbe & laura wiedijk at BIKINI space, basel, summer 2019.

special sax to yanik, cyril, adam, tim.

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(13 errata: on what we mistook for our mounts)

[[EARLY THAT MORNING WORDS WERE MISSING. (MISTAKEN FOR OTHERS). I MEET YOU IN THE CAR. SILENT ON OUR WAY RIDING TO THE SECOND MOUTH INN, YOU PUSH IN THE CASSETTE. MISTOOK TAPE X FOR TAPE XX.]

at the Second Mouth Inn we drive, park and take a room. i write my name in every one of your books.

— you send for a second 2nD dry gin. another last line. furniture, speakers, the curtains make shadows. (wake me if you need another poem).

At the Second Mouth Inn i dream !oh marvelous error. that there was a hive of bees and these bees were making white combs out of all my failur3s. we were dream natives you and i. sleep requires a lot of space. it is stranger than habit. you see, i didn't want a pony for xmas i wanted a wolf. if the body is an idea, then it is an idea made of fur.

@ the Second Mouth Inn i'm on All Fours trying to take my shoes off. too late, a repeating foot. @ midnight + 1 you give me the book Women Who Run With The Wolves saying, she can articulate herself better than any of my words can. (and i marvel at her ability to place the world in brackets (a bracket's worth of mirages (quotes or/ spoons!!?) is all i ever needed)).

athe Second Mouth Inn i spend the morning with you rewriting spelling mistakes. with a hotel pen, erasing all mistaken rituals. with every change there is a betrayal. let's suppose that language is compatible with my 3rrors. ??? your face is (pure) query. tell me more about the animals, you said. ah, tiny experience.

at at

the Second Mouth Inn memory can edit reality in some such ways, and the memory proves too good to let go. what memory is no longer a gripping thought? suction cups, i mistook it for a happy song.

(at) the Second Mouth Inn sometimes a person's tongue becomes a whole dining room table, tasting. i undo the button to my jeans.

cheek of a fish
nails as teeth..
words we read whilst sucking an olive
the secret juice of unripe peaches
heels of bread left for tomorrow's hard tasting.

atthesecondmouthinn you choose a pick which holds sandwiches together. you say it's to live a life better than everyone else. a pick which holds sandwiches together, i mistook it for your finger.

i mistook your eye socket for a basin. i mistook you for an empty well. mistook yours for my baAhd breath. you mistook me for thunder. i mistook your spine for a judge, the only authentic instrument with(in) which to measure your spine, i mistook it for a stack of lemons. i mistook your furry nose for a calm voice. mistook a voice for your voice. only your tail was human. (and you now only use long words). i mistook the smell of tiredness for rain. blue light for a dark night. i mistook your sadness for thirst, then felt like rolling in the dirt, eventually to become one person gathered up in moving pixels.... i mistook your hair for a public garden, they sprouted then i itched. mistook your pussy for a kiwifruit. i mistook, etc.

as much as when i/m misbehaving. on the edge of a mistake is a flavour of fear. i mistook my leg for your leg. mistook your mouth for my mouth. arist0tle thinks a mistake is an interesting mental event. says that metaphor causes the mind to experience itself in the act of making a miztake. let's do another take!!! do another take.

in the Second Mouth, i imagine my mouth in so many mouths. speech is the surplus of the kiss. you are not a neutral instrument, you are kneeling woman. and you speak of leaves. (speak in leaves). you are spacious like chance. i mistook you for a field.

i say this to the fly sitting on my shoulder. then through the window of your car i go to give you back your book. know full well you'd say, no you keep it, and my ::'politeness:<* kills the mood. off with such speed you become impersonal. at such speed you become mist, or a light gel.

at the 2nd Mouth Inn what remains is just a library of gifted books, mistaken for second mouths. sitting in a line, amongst the vases of fake flowers.

