

In an Age of Medial Repercussion

Self-alienation. . . as an aesthetic pleasure
- Walter Benjamin

In an age of medial repercussion
sampling and glossing not living what passes for life,
reality the current cult movie —
faces gestures costumery locale
layers facets replicas palimpsests
the seven veils an orbit of shattered mirrors
central casting images flickering
onto dance floors and screen, every pixel
a clickbait allusion tribute or clue

remembrance but never recollection — past
loves both superimposed and undergirding,
authenticity never out of fashion but of date,
a percept conceived in a state of contemporary
re- or undress, stock figures
reciting eternal reruns, alibis
to fake forgotten lines missed cues
adlibbed script changes unrehearsed
stage prop choreography

a romance motif from *Casablanca*, say,
where only the young and innocent have a ghost
of a chance of love's promise coming true
everyone else disabused, reminded
so to speak of nursery rhymes and fables
confessions declarations and acts of faith
best viewed through polarized spectacles
put on at the first frame while our eyes
are still hypersensitive to the light and potion
dropped into them before we have time to think.