

## 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 chance  
in hell of love's promise coming true,  
everyone else disabused, reminded  
so to speak of nursery rhymes 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.