

# Turning

SAMPLER

ALSO BY SCOTT THURSTON

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Scott Thurston

Turning

*Selected Poems*  
1995–2020

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# Sleight of Foot

sleight of foot

where you hung

up traces

coax her to rest

solid glimpses

cultivate labour to wait

as a pearl grows

what rocks your skin

enlarged again

gleaming over soil spits

quarry-canteen

hooking over to this

venture

one sided figures gleam

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determined branches

gripped in a posture of

strength attracted

strategy for light-catching

where breaks

open along that drive

pursued beyond

belief lingering heat

striving build

up again you in circles

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strapped in  
a niche pool curved  
to flooring  
floating strikes hung found  
above opening  
halls guess-dipped in  
formal approaches  
close-ends tie up  
tight those  
extraneous exits deep up  
fallen over  
the dip wandered singing  
sting of a  
gross snatched derivatives wing

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coracked appreciation

strung out in that

graft of completion

watch a wandering pulse

sit stride over

careful objects next to

the hatch

who took you there

could start to

explain but wouldn't be

necessary although

what you smell took

you long

over and out again

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# Speak for Itself

Speak  
speak for itself  
itself  
no it can't speak for itself  
itself  
gift is a wonder  
no you mask its speech  
speaking for it  
self speak for itself  
runs past pen and through  
death threatens and you say no  
'zeitgeist is ordinary perception'  
speaks for itself  
death threatens and speaks for  
yourself  
the route is generating speech  
patterned webs a system of obscurity  
possible power walls fractured  
speaking for themselves  
speak for itself is speak for itself  
speak speak speak speak  
bone a new layer creaks songs  
a wonder speaks again  
for itself  
buying a speech the cold  
sandwiches the network doesn't  
speak  
for  
itself  
itself speak for  
speak for itself  
wonder of obligation death threatens

and runs past your pen runs out  
threatening death and you say no  
or you act speaking for I  
is speaking for  
you  
is speaking for them  
speak for itself speaks for itself again  
mind weft intricacies old gestures  
this clinical distance  
who guesses the effort it takes  
unlikely pressures influences  
in the Gulf in Africa in India in Central America  
in South America in Russia in Bosnia it  
speaks for itself  
tries trips speaking for itself  
itself speaks for itself speaks for itself  
this music doesn't guess a rhythm appeal  
a continued masking unmasking  
death threatens speech speaking for itself  
speech threatens death speaking for itself  
runs past pen runs mask unmasked  
guess a tapped trick, well prestige  
'money is what gives superheroes their power' to  
speak for themselves speaking for itself  
it spoke for itself  
and one other  
and if it's not speaking a spoken crisis  
making crisis happen accessible  
clueless terrorism commands public spectacle  
attention disruption memory perception  
this terrorism speaks for itself  
this situationism speaks for itself  
a transmission rhythm web it's that  
simple representation speaks for itself  
representation is in a crisis transmission

having spoken for itself it spoke for  
itself said spoke for itself  
the relations have not changed  
they are merely bent said spoke  
for  
itself  
again  
and a clueless bird in a tree blown  
by terrorist speech spoken who spoke  
for its self speaking itself its  
margins parameters hidden homonyms  
drive an extra layer of sense speaking  
for itself again speaking for itself  
again but who is doing the excavating  
and therefore speaking for themselves  
knows what to expect before they find it  
because that is what experts do  
they speak for itself speaking for itself  
and speak for themselves  
a strain evident an evident strain  
death threatens a strained stained bone  
excavated a rough skeleton no longer  
speaks for itself a gender distinction  
too powerful to be expressed in a poem  
equals speaking for its own self a  
gender distinction unloading  
well there were one or two models  
around that had some use speaking for  
themselves reflecting us and not them  
but it was nothing we didn't already know  
not speaking but speaking for ourselves  
to ourselves and pronouns speak for  
themselves but not for  
and speaking is speaking is peaking  
speaking is speaking for itself

most probably when speaking for itself  
itself can't hear itself speaking  
death threatens  
a pen pushes paradox  
do you guess get up addressee  
pronoun gives a new line give up  
guess do you guess or look depending  
on whether you're speaking for yourself  
or other is that useful  
at desk death threatens pen pushes  
runs out  
and intervenes speaking for itself  
undermining undermined undermin  
a guess in an old location  
interviews interview with death  
death threatens speaking with  
itself to itself for itself  
an enquiry into rhythms and cycles  
it gestures and it's unconvincing  
terrorism death pen runs out  
ACTS ACT UP ACTS ACTS  
RUN UP OUT SPEAK ACTS  
SPEAK FOR ITSELF  
and the point of a surface is that  
it speaks for itself  
and where why does it come from  
to speak a surface again a surface  
speaking for itself alone on itself  
by itself speaking coming from  
death speaking acts act up pen  
pushing death roles towards  
a speakeasy skeleton history  
speaking easy for itself  
for the skeleton  
for history

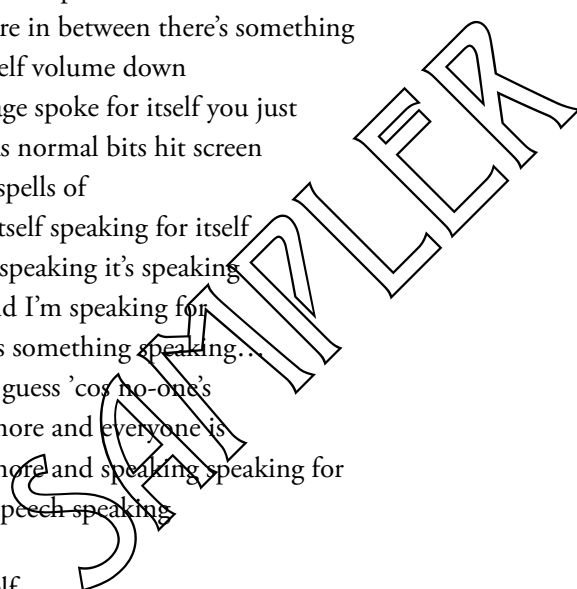
what is it you saw down there  
speaking for itself again a  
mouth clasps more teeth  
and it's that issue tissue  
representations printed covers  
on newsstands somewhere near a  
bomb that speaks for itself  
and who is that is speaking  
for itself  
to itself  
with itself  
of itself  
into itself  
on itself  
over itself  
above itself  
under itself  
beneath itself  
next to itself  
alongside itself  
adjacent to itself  
around itself  
out of itself  
into itself  
for itself for for for itself for itself  
of for itself for speech speak for itself  
itself itself speak for itself probably  
speak for itself speak for itself speech  
speak speaking speaking for itself it's  
speaking for itself speaking for itself...  
a guess a wonder a trapped balloon  
costs a minute's glimpse a building's  
prospects a sunlight's steal as ever  
speaking only of for and to itself  
under that spacial unit

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this horizon takes a beating  
curry speaking for itself  
that guess cultural myth  
projects a highlight contrast that  
SPEAKS FOR ITSELF  
and why not and if not why not  
and if not well not and if not  
why not why not... speak for  
itself  
speak for itself  
speaks for itself  
guess death pen acts speaking  
speech speaking  
speaks for itself  
sandwiches obligation music pen  
speaks for itself  
and a change in reading tenting  
tests and a change in reading  
tastes and a change in reading  
texts and this has radical new  
potential for irony that makes  
a gesture speaking for itself and  
ought it not to  
speaking for itself  
running on overtime  
speaking for itself  
no it's not around here  
speaking for itself  
well it could be near that fence  
speaks for itself  
don't touch it or it will speak  
speak for itself like moments  
during improvisation it's speaking for itself  
and to itself and with itself and of itself  
and to you it's speaking of your self reflection

it's simplistic but it speaks for itself  
I met someone once  
and they spoke for themselves  
spoke for itself itself actually  
enjoyed speaking for themselves it  
and other  
speaking speaking for for for for  
itself itself itself itself...  
well repetitions articulate a numeracy  
and literacy potential terrorist bomb  
speaking for itself speaks for itself  
and somewhere in between there's something  
it spoke to itself volume down  
obviously image spoke for itself you just  
listened and as normal bits hit screen  
tailored dark spells of  
thinking for itself speaking for itself  
thinking and speaking it's speaking  
for itself... and I'm speaking for  
someone else's something speaking...  
for itself it's a guess 'cos no-one's  
readable anymore and everyone is  
readable anymore and speaking speaking for  
itself gifts of speech speaking  
gift of speech  
speaks for itself  
speaks for itself



## For Grace Lake

where the body scoops at last a different willingness  
to speak in a half yard of work neglect difficulty in slender yet distinct  
patterns of abuse you accuse new willingness you lost the slender  
light of room suffused by elegantly traced patterns of awareness shifting  
almost at will  
accommodating a particular private room you and me a total terror to  
examine further fear

of disease inactivity being forced into social contact insomnia attacks  
boredom in withdrawal  
and then didacticism which poisons the beauty  
because it's ruined I want this to trust my meagre attention enough to  
confront the patterns that I am compelled to utter in defence or discussion  
to speak in a new way about the same things not self-imprisoning in my  
language zone  
of restrictions where the performance persists here I have models which can  
free me to try and keep that line refracting the word stream constructing  
itself within itself at  
all possibilities of risk or denial the other thing was about retracing steps  
a journal of  
socialisation to hanker after the struck forms as they emerged heavy  
welded threads sat solid  
in mediation to write that would be to lead me back to where I might  
have come from in  
throes of a credit island trusting what may go down under the hand the  
needs of them and us  
where triumph cannot be

associated ever with the high withdrawal and the neglect of entering into  
the poisonous space  
you have done it and what could be significant about that turn of choice  
and frame and face  
wincing in the grip of work but fight there or you will not be the only  
ones lost in a drift of  
action where wire lines slip to cut and back to distance and on to  
formalist retreat and lyric  
fascism and disengaged remote and unfelt experimentation again long  
lines living here I am  
so many people I ought to be called a rat from time to time

and a necessity to rid myself of addiction which is feeding myself back  
to me with only brief  
shreds to sustain me hanging losses on burnt out lots where a fork on the  
plot will be a  
number of certainly unregarded instances struck tight and hard with  
knowing usages and  
eclipsed atrocities of self-destruction which is the method which is the  
key which is the  
vehicle the action state process mildly wandering decayed under a  
mildewed stump to do it  
because it might be there to find it

because you have such or have left such or can be skirting a web of  
influences contracted  
lymph on cartilage renewal could be a way finding the next who comes  
or not might lead you astray and then go