



the code

stephanie young

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It is better to do nothing than to contribute to the invention of formal ways
of rendering visible that which Empire already recognizes as existent.

-- *Fifteen Theses on Contemporary Art*, Alain Badiou

I agree to go on the cruise ship and then refuse
thought I could have a dream

and refuse it's simple, water
"I'm obsessed with" water, the west, low ceilings,

etc. refusal as a sound
a group of its trash expanded

as an extension of what can be seen and
what can't China the conditions

what conditions knowing
and not knowing looking, seeing, watching, observing

and not "I refuse"
these lines begin with I, probably still

on a cruise ship not wanting
to think about it *means* on a cruise ship

you might not even try :there you are
talking about refusal the empire

can see these attempts
renewed in lines of roughly equal length

known to the empire already
therefore I won't describe them here any further:

claustrophobia on cruise ships the
empire knows all about it

I agree to go on the cruise ship and then refuse
15.08.010 Title. These regulations

thought I could have a dream
the 1995 edition shall be known as

and refuse it's simple, water
of the Oakland Housing Code may be cited as such,

"I'm obsessed with" water, the west, low ceilings, etc.
and will be referred to herein as "this Code."

refusal as a sound The purpose of this code is not
to create or otherwise

a group of its trash expanded establish or designate
meanwhile, below decks any particular class

as an extension of what can be seen and or group of persons who
in the galleys preparing food will or should be

what can't China the conditions especially protected or
for example the majority benefited by

what conditions knowing the terms of
from developing countries and Eastern Europe this Code.

and not knowing.

looking, seeing, watching, observing

these crew members are not allowed
and not "I refuse"

up beyond a certain level
these lines begin with I, probably still

into the passenger areas or face
on a cruise ship not wanting

disciplinary action. They sleep
to think about it *means* on a cruise ship

in cramped, noisy cabins. Their food is often
you might not even try :there you are

Where any building or portion thereof
leftovers, taken
in a crew canteen. There is

talking about refusal
is used or intended to be used
usually a small area
allocated on a lower deck

the empire can see these attempts
as a combination apartment
where they can take
some sea air, but

renewed in lines of roughly equal length
house-hotel, the provisions of this Code
with the long working hours
there is little time.

known to the empire
shall apply to the separate portions
In effect, they rarely come up
above the water line

already
when at sea.

as if they were separate buildings

therefore

Those from industrialised countries, by contrast, rarely work below decks unless they are skilled maritime crew or supervisors such as the head chef.

therefore I won't describe them here any further:
claustrophobia on cruise ships the

empire knows all about it

All materials, assemblies, appliances, fixtures, equipment and installations thereof; all arrangements of occupancies, exits, aisles, stairs, and doors; all parapet wall, cornices, spires, towers, tanks, statuary, signage, structural members, appendages, and appurtenances thereto in buildings and structures regulated by this Code shall be so arranged, assembled, installed, maintained and of sufficient size and so protected as to reduce and minimize all egress, fire, safety, and health hazards.

therefore I won't describe them here any further:
these attempts—claustrophobia on cruise ships the
empire knows all about it

and thus suggests stateroom with balconies. At your elbow, with a white towel folded
over the arm of the microphone

Italy: Master, marine officers and engineers
suggests a balcony USA: Hotel manager, cruise director, casino
supervisor, ship's doctor and nurse, entertainers/musicians, social hosts, light/sound and

IT specialists
thus suggest

Britain: Corporate trainers, Food &
Beverage manager, Maitre d', Salon Manager, Backstage Manager, casino supervisor and
staff dancers, kids play organizers, beauticians/hairdressers, retail sales and art
auctioneer, video technicians, plus one sous chef and one bartender

suggest a stateroom with balcony. At your elbow, with a white towel folded over the arm of
the microphone suggests a balcony

or carefully inclines Authority. The building Official
before you pursue employment consider

is hereby authorized the cabin of a worker in the hull
like a friendly reminder is visible and directed

in the hull to enforce all of the provisions

The ship was detained
in Rhodes for spilling waste

of this Code and Chapter beneath the water in the harbor. An inspection
a water line: the mark 8.24 of the Oakland Municipal Code

that is a hull shared with two to four other

found that the ship's tanks
had overflowed and caused it

Property Blight. like a friendly reminder is visible
Beneath the water a water line: the mark

to list 10 degrees to its side.
The ship's tanks held 3,000

in the hull, For such purposes that is a hull
shared with two to four other hundreds

tons of waste that would take
up to a week to remove.

of the cabin in the cabin the building official

shall have the smallest cabin known to empire
the powers of a law enforcement officer

Crewmembers remained
stranded onboard
the ship and have requested
assistance with food and
water. The 930 passengers
continued their voyage
from Rhodes on chartered
aircraft

meanwhile back at the acai berry cleanse
I had sailed with the United States Passenger Act of 1882

clings to the ship to the outside of the shuttle previously
Buildings and structures and looked forward to the tubes, collections, et cetera

or portions thereof all known everywhere already another great time.
the great eye which are determined to be written on the money

substandard The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 I was not disappointed.
of the great adventures money had The ship is clean a great roving eye

as defined in this Code visible to itself and well maintained.
The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 are hereby declared to be

The décor is very colorful

floating here

and here

something I knew about China No building or structure
almost nothing regulated by this Code

prevented me with thinking
through things, their spreadsheet shall be erected, constructed

enlarged, altered, repaired, moved, improved, converted or demolished
climbing a wall of these

unless a separate permit for each building
one could through or across, *you're with me on this*

aren't you? Or are you structure
has first been obtained on this point, in the parade

one keeps trying to keep one's eyes open:
from the Building Official here before, been

the dulled service in the manner
of falling asleep in Antarctica sounds so bitter

according to the applicable conditions when you place it in line with the rest
prescribed in section 106 so I had to put it right back

on their inline skates of the Oakland Building Code.
don't exist Stephanie hence nostalgia: letters from David from China

what I knew about China
in a file: CONGREGATED RESIDENCE

"That is my report" is any building
comes down the hall just now "checking in"

on the photocopied files or portions thereof
in the office is a desk

which contains there it is again
the Canadian government facilities for living.

funds another artist sleeping and sanitation
and a couch and may include facilities

a movie for eating and cooking
as required by this Code a pleasure voyage

for occupancy by a documentary
other than a family. Funded by the Canadian government

A congregate residence I saw in the Shattuck Theater
on Shattuck Avenue voyager:

sitting in bed, reading may be
a shelter, convent, monastery, dormitory, fraternity or sorority house

essay sort of about the essay that uses the poem CHINA
as an example, but does not include

not even the essay, I'm reading jails, hospitals, nursing homes,
hotels or lodging houses. the abstract

HOT WATER if the bed is this chair
if this is a line is potable water

a pleasure voyage along the Yangtze river the size of the cabins
at a temperature of not less than one hundred ten degrees Fahrenheit

in the hull not exactly supplied to plumbing fixtures
what the movie was 'about' KITCHEN

below the water line is where the workers sleep
is any room used on cruise ships

or intended or designed to be used oh, right
four to a room "I refuse" to use sort of

not even with a balcony for cooking and preparing food plus
my mom worries the kids could fall off NUISANCE

just saying 'kids' like that like they're mine use is the wrong word
when they-ours The following shall be defined as nuisances:

the stuck night sleeping there as if to refuse
any public nuisance think about it

at common law or in equity and refuse
jurisprudence. Any attractive nuisance in a dream

the night was stuck which may prove detrimental to children
the play *The Night* or whether in a building,

the play about a disaster or an unoccupied lot.
which is the night or reporting on the night

is a disaster This includes any abandoned well, shaft, basement or excavation,
the voyage isn't a play but the device works

awfully abandoned refrigerator or motor vehicle or
the water rising

any structurally un-sound fence or structure or lumber,
at the end trash, fence, debris or vegetation

the invitation which may prove a hazard to a set
for inquisitive minors. *try*

carry all that on your back and other fables with water
Whatever is dangerous where exchange to life and limb

as determined by the Building Official or Fire Chief
decorates the exchange or property or is detrimental to public health

which the water as determined by the Health Officer.
covers over. Overcrowding

another question a room with occupants.
Tired about the camera—subject

uh Insufficient ribs of its tired
ventilation of having its picture taken

once taken “I can’t see”
or illumination. Inadequate or

“the night is stuck like this” Unsanitary sewage
“the night is a new media” to replace that which

water or plumbing covers over
filmed water facilities.

slowly as announced rising Uncleanliness
Daniel Day Lewis promises bread whoops

as determined by the Health Officer wrong one but
there are signs clear The Certificate of Occupancy

all signs point to water, grey, potable
shall set forth and limit this is a film

the use and occupancy of buildings rising from a tiny campfire
and shall run gates clicking slam shut

with the structure in a reddish light,
continuing valid until the same is revoked like there were lanterns

as you are or until such time as a change in the occupancy surprised me there
or use of the structure or a substandard condition a hot bullb as defined by
this Code shall occur in my sore hand or until the building is demolished.

Stephanie Young lives and works in Oakland. Her books of poetry are *Picture Palace* (in girum imus nocte et consumimur igni, 2008) and *Telling the Future Off* (Tougher Disguises, 2005). She edited the anthology *Bay Poetics* (Faux Press, 2006) and current editorial work includes the collaborative digital project *Deep Oakland* (www.deepoakland.org).

