

Hills Snyder: Cat Tois

Books are like architecture, providing façade, portal, tag, context, ways in and through. And in the case of this little candle-lit shelf, a stacked reference to the opposing buttresses of Eiffel's tower.

For the felines among us, a monumental toy is at hand, fit for clawing and climbing, not to mention the provision for naps and the sort of posing kitties favor.

A couple of "Persian" rugs recycled from *Lonely Are the Brave* are the surface, a cultural drape, east on west, but non-directional. You can make of it what you will.

And if you notice the twin tower shadows cast in this pink light, you can venture back with me to the beginning of my fascination with La Tour...back to the weeks of early Bush2 and a certain Austin based Eiffel replica which stands twenty feet tall again in the parking lot of Dreyfus Antiques on MLK at Lamar.

I use the word again because there was a time when threats of violence caused the temporary removal of the tower --- lasting for months! --- a shameful reminder of the "hooray for our side" mentality that still pervades.

Okay. But don't forget to play.

And merci, Green Fairy.

music: Mnemosyne by Sanguinem Mittere
fries: La Frite

Cat Tois (pronounced ca-twa), marks Hills' first use of weather-stripping nails, among other materials. He's used brass tacks before, but this is different.

Further info:

Carpe diem is a phrase from a Latin poem by Horace. It is popularly translated as "seize the day". Carpe means "pick, pluck, pluck off, gather", but Horace uses the word to mean "enjoy, make use of."

In Horace, the phrase is part of the longer *Carpe diem petulum vestri cattus quam minime credula postero* - "Seize the day, petting your cat, trusting as little as possible in the future," and the ode says that the future is unknowable, and that instead one should scale back one's hopes to a brief future, and drink one's wine. Compare with the Biblical "eat, drink, pet your cat and be merry, for tomorrow we die", a conflation, with emphasis on making the most of current opportunities because life is short and time is fleeting - an existential caution.

Three Walls / 116 Rue Bernard / Blue Star Art Complex / San Antonio, TX / 219.1562

Cat Tois Bookshelf

The Innocent Eye, Roger Shattuck
Poe, Poe, Poe, Poe, Poe, Poe, Poe, Daniel Hamilton
Chance and Necessity, Jacques Monod
Impressions of Africa, Raymond Roussel
The Guillotine and The Terror, Daniel Arasse
The Fetishist, Michel Tournier
Friday, Michel Tournier
Hiroshima Mon Amour, Marguerite Duras
Snapshots, Alain Robbe-Grillet
The Erasers, Alain Robbe-Grillet
How I Wrote Certain of My Books, Raymond Roussel
The French Mathematician, Tom Petsinis
Time Was Soft There, Jeremy Mercer
Magritte, Suzi Gablik
Death and The Labyrinth, Michel Foucault
Raymond Roussel and The Republic of Dreams, Mark Ford
Things Hidden Since The Foundation of The World, René Girard
The Elementary Particles, Michel Houellebecq
The Possibility of An Island, Michel Houellebecq
Eiffel's Tower, Jill Jonnes
Guillotine, Daniel Gerould
The Wind Spirit, Michel Tournier
A Night of Serious Drinking, René Daumal
Mount Analogue, René Daumal
The Holy Terrors, Jean Cocteau
Why Duchamp, Gianfranco Baruchello & Henry Martin
Platform, Michel Houellebecq
Paris in the Twentieth century, Jules Verne
The Unknown Poe, Raymond Foye, ed.
Illuminations, Rimbaud
The Blue Flowers, Raymond Queneau
Locus Solus, Raymond Roussel
Lanzarote, Michel Houellebecq
Whatever, Michel Houellebecq
Mad Love, André Breton
Who are You Monsieur Gurdjieff?, René Zuber
Savage Night, Jim Thompson
Poems, Stéphane Mallarmé
The Time of the Assassins, Henry Miller