

Claudia La Rocco

Quartet

An elegy to four critical and poetic minds—Bill Berkson, Douglas Crimp, Kevin Killian, Sam Miller—*Quartet* is also a meditation on ancestors, on how those who are no longer here affect our way of being, of writing, of moving through the world. Poet, novelist, writer of and on performance Claudia La Rocco weaves fragile threads of acquaintanceship and intimacy into a chamber piece of voices, attitudes, and gestures of attention, spurred on by the restless interplay of present, past, and page. *Quartet's* motifs run unpredictably along our sociality's frayed edges, seeking connections in the questions we're left with after the passing of lives and eras, inescapably edged by legacies of privileged belonging.

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In *Quartet* every paragraph seems an effort at ceremony, the words of dead friends are treated as haunted statuary, and random narrations of daily living are weighted with emblems of the occult. Sometimes the luster is found in the editing, or the fact that La Rocco casts an impossibly wide gaze. Her words can feel more like video footage, sharp, available and bordering on surveillance.

—CEDAR SIGO



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Claudia La Rocco is the author of the selected writings *The Best Most Useless Dress* (Badlands Unlimited), the chapbook *I am trying to do the assignment* ([2nd Floor Projects]), and the sf novel *petit cadeau* (Chocolate Factory Theater). Her work frequently involves interdisciplinary projects; collaborators include visual artist Anne Walsh, choreographer Michelle Ellsworth, and musician/composer Phillip Greenlief, with whom she is animals & giraffes, an ongoing experiment in improvisation. La Rocco is Editorial Director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's live and online commissioning platform Open Space.

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