

# wordtomydead

## sadé powell

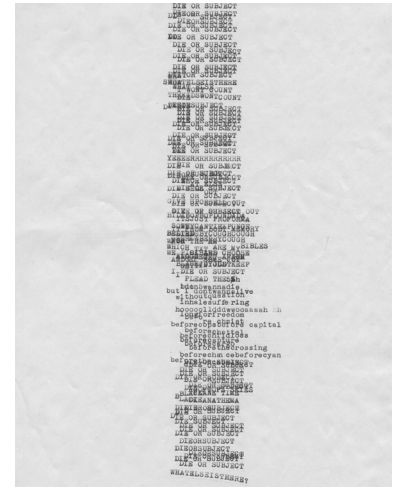
*wordtomydead* is a practice in black feminist poethics. using a 1940's mechanical typewriter, **sadé** mucks up orthography to investigate disorienting practices of refusal and wade through the fundamental feltness and unintelligibility of thingness. the concrete poetics deployed on/with/against the typewriter serve as scores for plenum sociality: your head stretches to the page, eyes squint, tongues stutter as you read the cascading letters falling off the margins.

// to want to riot so much more than matter wants to matter so riotously, so differently, so invaluablely, that it runs over itself in tremble, buzz and moan. neither the book nor the very idea of the grammar book can hold it back. flow clots to spill at broken natural tempi. surfacing abounds the letter's natural twists and turns. what we get is supernatural flower. no petition for recovery, then a gig; just verbal streetlife in the common wind repeating: *wordtomydead*, by sadé powell.

— FRED MOTEN

// In a style reminiscent of M. NourbeSe Philip in *Zong!*, sadé powell asks us to not only read the words and characters but also the spaces comprising the page. I love a text that requires your whole body to approach it, a text that makes you question what it is to read, and to be read. Standingly firmly within the tradition of Black experimental aesthetics, *wordtomydead* is an invitation to be in conversation with powell and the text to make your own meaning. It's a ritual, one that requires return and continued engagement such that new understandings reveal themselves with each read. powell's question, "what am i unbecoming?" has taken hold of me, and I suspect it won't be letting go any time soon..

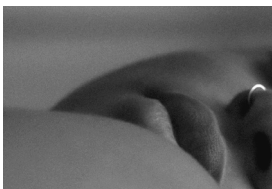
— JEHAN ROBERSON



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**sadé powell** is a native new yorker and antidisiplinary poet, exploring fugitivity, legibility, and interobjectivity through visual and concrete poetry. inspired by her upbringing, she uses the sonic, kinesthetic, and linguistic elements of her 1940s mechanical typewriter to experiment with dissemblance as proximity and relation to otherwise potentialities. sadé holds a ma in performance studies at nyu tisch. her work can be found in *Kolaj Magazine* and *Tiny Spoon*.