

Catastrophe

by Shaun Ellis

I

One demarcates oneself as an individual in order to be loved by and love one other individual. One is not in passive receipt of one's personality; one acutely generates it from cultural pro forma; one regularly endeavours to revise the product, hoping to induce love. Love transpires when another individual entirely receives and endorses what one has packaged and dispatched.

II

The decisive triumph of liberal democratic society has precursed a laissez-faire economics of sex founded on free-market principles. Regulation once imposed a one-man/one-mate arrangement: monogamy, a job for life. As with the capitalist structure, the down-side is an inflating fissure between the haves and the have nots; some will be affluent, others left destitute.

III

The accumulation of slapdash sexual experiences encouraged within a libidiously liberated society undermines and eventually destroys the possibility of any really significant ontological transmission between discrete human beings. This transmission is known as love. A society can operate as though love did not exist for only a certain period before love does not exist.

IV

We transmit our finely-chiselled individualisations, hoping another will come and embrace it, will close off our intended totality of identity, will love what we have consciously made of our selves. Lacking this opportunity for self-expurgation, one suffers from a detrital build-up of pressure. Confessional poetry is a vain attempt to release this love, unrequited by the reader.