

Words from a 22nd Century Poetry Machine to a Second Order Poet

We have built you a poetry machine
it took us a lifetime
and we're yours for the sampling—
you can access our words and moods
the many failed relationships, the many happy hours
and the long in-between days.

Do not expect to possess us completely
these words mere intercourse—
your impulse, our logarithmic fertility—
an appetizer only:
let's not clone the encounter.

Begin instead with an exchange of
acids, of *aqua vitae*, for
the alchemists had many
recipes; they're integral
to our program.

Think of us as an infinite blue-print
to your necessary demolition.
Think of our machine as a God
and remember:
Gods are flexible
and easily bribed.

That said
feel free
to smithy the sentence.

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Short Bio

Ian Irvine is a Bendigo based poet and writer. His work has featured in many print and online publications, both in Australian and overseas, including the anthologies *Best Australian Poems*, *Agenda* 'Contemporary Australian Poets' and *Fire* (UK) 'Special International Edition' (2008), which featured the work of contemporary and canonical modernist poets from over 60 nations. He is the author of three books and holds a PhD for his work on the phenomena of chronic ennui and alienation. Ian has been involved with the BWC for many years and currently coordinates the writing program at Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE. Recently he's been working on a non-fiction book on creativity entitled *Thirty-One Isles of the Literary Imagination* and is working to develop a unique transpersonal-relational poetics.

Relevant links:

* Current author's website <http://www.authorsden.com/ianirvine>

- * Interview with US poet Clayton Eshleman, 'Clayton Eshleman in conversation with Ian Irvine' - an conducted for [Jacket Magazine 36](#) (Australia) - late 2008.
- * Poems online: *Mascara* (2008) Aust/Asia - three poems from the [Vietnamese Sequence](#)
- * Poems online: *Eclectica* (1998) US - [five poems](#)
- * Article: [Sloth, Ennui and Tristitia](#) this article discusses the early medieval malady of *acedia* and was published online in 2003 (also published in *Humanitas*, US 1998). The article is also used by Wikipedia in defining *acedia*/*tristitia* and the sin of sloth.
- * Article: [The Antigoneish Review](#), an article dealing with postmodern ennui. (Canada, Issue 116, 1998).