

**In desire lines**

**(response to Riddim an' Resistance: Lillian Allen, Clive Robertson)**

**Respondent: Britta Badour**

**Response edited by Faith Paré**

**Response to a conversation that took place as a live broadcast online video event on 26 February 2021 as part of the speaker series, *Desire Lines: Mapping the Metadata of Toronto Arts Publishing*, hosted by the AGYU in coordination with Artexte and SpokenWeb.**

in

the room

a roomy brew

*blew*

breath

big breath,

magnetic breath, fixed

route *twine zuh*

in *tuh*

enter

room, roots re-routing

intertwined

unravelling

with

hiss

his

whose?

who is storied?

stored,

who houses

whose *hiss*

story?

dis

*ark uhk*

ack now edges

bridges, brackets,

embraces

green dot

a n d

i m a g i n e

i merge in

airy loops

arcs, archives

hives count

co unite

night, knit

units

of minutes

dis

cursive im

media see

in *tuh*

in time

intimate

as

kru-shuh

crucial

kru-shawl

crushing

it

tee

bitty

nodal

it tee

noted

knotted

know edge

*crah-sh*

needless

knee

noiseless natal

native

words

notional wave

vain, way vine

waving wayward

within

the field

unforeseen

forcing

fusing social nets

may  
or may not

*muh-ter*

*mah-ter*

*muh-teeuh-ree materialize*

*wring-wring reggae*

*egz-egz egz-ah*

examined dub breath

in the roomy brew

doubled, tripled, four-footed

before your turn

lick your finger before you turn

that page, pay attentive mind-eye

perk that wet ear

we tear, we *tare-uh* terrorize

we time the distance from now

to the direction of the algorithms' rhythm

*reap, reap*

repeat &

reinforce an

uneven *pahp-pahp* p-power nets this history

this history hid this hidden history

this history troubled this troubled victory

ah reckon a rekard verse

a voyage raced, a racial thirst

bullet points coerced, from chambers to lobbies

a magazine copied

from

knee-scrapes on pavement

*tuh-ko tuh-ko tuh-ko-zjuheee*

*tuh-ko-tuh-ko zjuheee-zjuheee*

*fow-tuh-ko*

photocopy machine inna Regent Park

*ark uhk*

*ack* now edges Regentrification Park

who houses whose *hiss*

*you can see we were just babies*

we were just babies  
when we were displaced  
from apartment complexes  
to act like community theatre props & prospects  
they called us model citizens, they called us billboard posters  
sampled our presence's presence, called our history living  
a living history – who is history?  
The battle to unmute the access  
& audience

to audio  
to un-lack

boxes & boxes  
emerge in imagine

airy loops

arcs, archives  
archives back  
archives lean, archives arrive

*without suitcases*

without asked  
auspicious grasp of master maintenance  
art halls between white walls  
on the other side of this art, this art  
troubles, this troubled art  
rabblés crucial *kru-shawl* know edge  
not without politics

*this makes you tired, man*

*just ignore it*

*well, it can't be ignored*

contralto silk, staccato static, different granularities doing stuff

Lillian doing her stuff

Clifton doing his stuff

Devon doing his stuff

Clive going back

spending hours remembering the sense & in *tuh*

intimacy of poor quality cassettes

we would not have recorded, resisted

printed

*egz-ah* existed

if we didn't have this afro-political mission

but this history *hard eh*

carve the cues, queues, questions & articles

stippled in Chocolate City News

that what segregated

what that segregation meant on the block:

green dots

separating

blacks from whites like telephone cords

little Toronto, the apartheid city

*took three buses to get to my house on Weston Rd.*

*Clive would signal some kind of respect, some risk --*

*instead of a down payment on a house,*

*bought & built home studio equipment first*

no one could afford

no one could participate

no one could build

nobody had a studio,

already we had a studio &

*somebody* who supported our vision our verse

to Vinyl, Voicespondence

we were made visible

we knot know edge

we knot stumble upon some shade

we knot stumble upon some stank-eye

we & some invite

we & some access

we & some supportive conversation

about new generations n' new gatherings

we & some presence challenging:

*what culture, what Canadian?*

we & some sleeves rolled up

move across lines

out-lines cultural & racial side-lines

*woo wroo* ear-th *throo* through rhyme books & hooks

beyond *buh-row-row* bureaucracy into friendships

& chinooks

magnetic breath, big breath

a roomy brew

*blew*

our hardtimes heads' riddim

our *hiss* hoarse hustlin'

*juh-jruj*

drum drum

drum beat

heart beat

pulse beat

drum

there, we are doing stuff

Lillian doing stuff

Clive, Felicity, Britta doing stuff

decades later, more i merge

it tee bitty

nodal it tee

Dub Street

holding historic routes & shining

*out to our futures*