

Janet Kuypers 10/20/13

Periodic Table of Poetry feature

# Pilsen, Periodically

live at the Pilsen Art Walk Poetry Reading

# Praseodymium

(#59, Pr)

## Janet Kuypers

“I once set fire to my fingernail.  
I wanted my finger to be a  
human candle.”  
She dropped another match into her glass.  
The flame sizzled  
in the drops of drink at the bottom.

In a corner booth, in this small club  
the flame she aroused looked like  
any other table light.  
But if you looked too closely,  
the light would scorch your soul,  
would burn your eyes hollow.  
That little piece of energy she held  
could be so intense  
that you needed that Praseodymium  
in your eye glasses  
just to look for another second.

The flame she aroused  
looked like any other light,  
but she knew she was destined  
for the big screen,  
complete with studio lighting  
and projector lights  
from the motion picture industry  
broadcasting her to the world  
through arc lights.

So she struck another match  
at the side of the box.  
Six or seven lay on the cocktail napkin,  
ten more at the bottom of the glass.

She'd watch the reflection  
of the gemstones in rings  
across her fingertips  
reflecting that flame.  
The yellow-green cubic zirconia  
on each of her fingers  
bounced the light of the flame  
in thousands of directions.

She likes gemstones  
on her rings, she doesn't bother  
with big earrings  
or expensive necklaces —  
she looks at her hands  
because she likes rings;  
she can't help it.

A few of those peridot-inspired stones  
were gifts from a loved one,  
because they knew they were dying soon.  
So she becomes the only one  
treating these rings live gravestones,  
even when no one has even died yet.

And the person that gave her these rings,  
she knows they want to be cremated.  
Just then you could see the flame  
dancing at her fingertip.  
She shook the match. She dropped it in her glass.

# D a r m s t a d t i u m

(#110, Ds)

## Janet Kuypers

Element one one zero  
in the periodic Table,  
Darmstadtium,  
originally didn't have a name,  
so when the scientists  
gave a space-filler name  
to element one one zero  
they gave props  
to the Greeks and Latins  
by calling it  
Ununnilium.

I'm sure it's said  
oon – un – nil – ee – um,  
or maybe oon – un – neel – ee – um,  
but knowing a thing or two  
about the town of Darmstadt  
during the Nazi regime,  
I'm tempted to call it  
oon – un – nile - ee um.

Oon – un-nihliate.  
Get that heavy water  
into the hands  
of Nazi Germany,  
and you'll understand  
the word play.

#

When Nazis took power in Germany,  
Darmstadt was the first city  
to even force Jewish shops to close.

German scientists knew  
they could use “heavy water”  
in an effort to make a nuclear bomb...  
And when the allies bombed  
the Nazis in nineteen forty-three  
the air raid forced Nazis to move  
all of their “heavy water”  
to Germany for protection  
(at places like Darmstadt,  
where the super-heavy element  
Darmstadtium was later discovered).

Then again, prominent members  
of the German resistance  
against the Nazis  
were citizens of Darmstadt.

And Darmstadt is where the  
big German accelerator is situated...  
The GSI Heavy Ion Research Centre  
is in Darmstadt, and elements  
are discovered there  
(like Darmstadtium). You see,  
they had to make Darmstadtium  
in this big machine  
just to discover it, because  
this synthetic element  
isn't even present  
in the environment at all.  
I mean, we've only been able  
to make just a few atoms  
of the super-heavy Darmstadtium...

But then again,  
from what we could tell,  
it's insanely radioactive,  
has an insanely short half life,  
and no stable isotopes.  
With all going against the nature  
of Darmstadtium, it's no wonder  
that there isn't even much concern  
over guessing it's potential physical  
and chemical properties.

With such a short half life,  
there's no point in wondering  
about the effect it might have  
on the human body  
or even on the environment,  
because it just instantly decays  
into lighter elements instead.

With such a short half life,  
we'd have to slow down time itself  
to even confirm it's potential  
silvery-white luster.

Hmmm, slowing down time itself.  
Maybe that's what we'd have to do  
to learn a thing or two  
about you,  
Darmstadtium.  
Because with your  
history of instability,  
with such short amounts of you  
creating only a flash of damage,  
we'll let others wonder  
about the potential for  
oon-un-nihilation  
before we truly  
learn a thing  
or two.

# Rhodium

## (#45, Rh)

When you say the word “menthol,”  
images probably crop up in your head  
of women holding a cigarette stick  
like she’s using her smoke  
as an orchestra wand,  
tracing the line of smoke  
like she’s conducting a symphony  
with her mint-tasting cancer stick.

But menthol’s also used in lip balms  
(I really like that stuff, too,  
I like the minty flavor on my lips) —  
it’s even used in cough medications.  
It can be used in those Icy Hot patches,  
menthol’s in decongestants  
like Vicks VapoRub, it’s in  
aftershaves to relieve razor burn.  
Yeah, and speaking of the taste  
in cigarettes or lip balm, menthol  
is in mouthwashes, toothpastes,  
even chewing gum.

So really, now that you know how  
widely it’s used now, you can see  
how menthol’s demand is now so huge  
compared to the natural supply.  
So in Japan, one man even won in 2001  
the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for  
a process to meet the demand  
for more menthol worldwide.  
This Japanese team used Rhodium  
based catalysts for menthol synthesis.

And yeah, Rhodium is used in catalysts  
for anything from automobile  
catalytic converters, or making  
certain silicone rubbers. And sure,  
Rhodium is used for jewelry,  
coating sterling silver to stop tarnishing  
or electroplating white gold and platinum,  
making it white and reflective.

I mean, the Guinness Book of World Records  
gave Paul McCartney a Rhodium-plated disc  
in 1979 for being history's all-time best-selling  
songwriter and recording artist.

Not gold. Not titanium. But Rhodium.

(And because Rhodium's so expensive,  
that World Records award disc given to  
Paul McCartney isn't even solid Rhodium.)

So I guess it's kind of interesting that  
this expensive decorative jewelry addition  
is also used to give our chewing gum  
that excellent minty flavor. So yeah,  
when you're worrying about how money  
can seem tight sometimes,  
don't worry about the jewelry.  
Just pop a stick of mint chewing gum  
in your mouth, thanks to Rhodium,  
and realize that we all probably  
don't have it that bad after all.



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**Books:** *Hope Chert in the Attic, the Window, Clara Cove Before Striking, (Womans), Autumn Reason, Contents Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Guide to Feminism, Changing Coats, the Key to Believing, Domestic Blitters, etc. Oveuro, Exare Versus, L'erte, the Other Side, The Best Lady's Editorial (regular and 2005 Expanded Edition), Doing Things Differently, Chasing/Rearranging, Death Comes in Threes, Moving Performances, Six Eleven, Life at Cafe Aloha, Creams, Rough Mixes, The Entropy Project, The Other Side (2006 Edition), Stop, Sing Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, ccd v167.5 (Writing to Honor & Cherish, editor edition), Blister & Barn (the Kuypers edition), SEM, ccd v170.5 (Distinguished Writings editor edition), Living in Chaos, Silent Screams, Taking It All In, It All Comes Down, Rising to the Surface, Galapagos, Chapter 38 (v1, v2 & v3), *Really, Literature for the Savvy and Elite (v1, v2 & part 1), a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Kuypers, Evolution, (tweet), Get Your Buzz On, Janet & Jean Together, po-em, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the Came-Dixie Chi-town Union, the Written Word, Deal, Prepare Her for This, Uncorrect, Living in a Big World, Pulled the Trigger, Venture to the Unknown, Janet Kuypers: Enriched, She's an Open Book, "40", Sexism and Other Stories, the Stories of Womans, Prominent Pen (Kuypers edition), Elemental, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Tongue, Chaotic Elements, Fusion, Stability Stability Stab Stab Stab, a Picture's Worth 1,000 words (color art book and b&w art book), Life, in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Infamous in our Prime, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art, the Electronic Windmill, Changing Womans, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, the Svetlovators Unapishied, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Malaga, Memento Mori, in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Bumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas at Ten, Creeping Down Nineteenth, Blue Collar Ballet, japonen, In Your Heart the Apoglyph's Teardrops of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Bee, Anais Nin: an Understanding of her Art (second printing), *Richard Brauer / Charles Rowman, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Marble Pauline Borghese with a Marble Apple in her Marble Hand, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not Far From Here, Waterhead, You Have Finally Won, Avenue C, Suburban Rhythms, Snows Synthesia, the Dark Side of Love, the Will in a man's best Friend, Angel's Syllable in Good News of Devil's Spine, Poems and Stories from The Blue Collar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Carmagedon's View, Ghost Danes Leaping from a Tomb, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Interstice, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, The Holy See of CEE, Book 15 \* Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Branson's Secret Hostage, Erasable Bond, Royal Dana's Death Scene 'tis of Thee, Understood, Akshic Shogun, "Champagne, Hot Water", Sulphur & Sordast, Slate & Marrow, Blister & Barn, Rinse & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Torture & Triumph, Oh, the Elements, Side A/Side B, Balance, Chaos Theory, Writing To Honour & Cherish, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silences, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Stars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, Decrepit Remains, Charred Remnants, Hope & Creation, Bending the Curve, Layers of Creation, Dark Matter, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling Through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Weathered, echo, ink in my blood, (bound) 4 editions, Enriched Poetry, cc&d Enriched Prose, Enriched with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Town Hall (2 editions), Prominent Pen (2 editions), 100 Words, 1,000 Words, the 2012 Open Book Book, It Was All Preordained, Cultural Touchstones, the Mission (new edition and dogbook edition), Porcupine, Falling, Chop Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013: John Brock, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), After the Apocalypse (prose edition), Entanglement, Gull by Association, Give What You Can, Down in the Dirt v04, Come Fly With Me, Clearing the Debris, Secluded & Sequestered, Six Six Six, Skeletal Remains, Out of the Web, Don't Tread on Me, Lines of Intensity, Entering the In Age, When the World Settles, Into the White, Along the Surface, Life... from Nothing, the Line to Power, Four the Forsaken, Up in It, Falling Into Place, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Unknown, Looking Beyond, Forever Bound, See the World Bar, Exploding on the Scene, America the Lost, Moving the Earth, Catch Fire in the Treetops, Wisdom in Broken Hands, Autumn Again, Up In Smoke, Symbols Manifest, No Return, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, Wrapping It Up,***

**Compact Discs** *Men's Favorite Year the drama trope, Kuypers the [MP3] Indicators, Woods and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Ailing Something is Swirling, The Second Ailing Live in Alaska, Puffin & Kuypers Live at Cafe Aloha, Painters Orchestra Rough Mixes, Kuypers Seeing Things Differently, SD/CD Track Pack, Kuypers Change Rearranging, Order From Chaos The Emory Project, Kuypers Six One One, Kuypers Stop, Kuypers Wonderful Performances, pp2 CD, Kuypers Death Comes in Threes, Kuypers Changing Coats, Kuypers Diversions, Kuypers How Do I Get There?, Kuypers Contact-Aquatic 4-ambit, the DMU Art Connection, Kuypers Questions in a World Without Answers, Kuypers SIN, Kuypers WEDD Radio (2 CD set), Men's Favorite Year and the Second Ailing These Truths, assorted artists Spring Theory, Oh (Janet) CD, Life At The Cafe (3 CD set), the DMU Art Connection: Indica Flava, the DMU Art Connection Music Depression or Something, Classic Radio Chaotic Radio Week #1, Classic Radio Chaotic Radio Week #2, Classic Radio Chaotic Radio Week #3, Classic Radio Chaotic Radio Week #4, Classic Radio Chaotic Radio Week #5, Classic Radio the Chaotic Collection Collection 801-85 (5 CD set) etc (Janet) CD, 2 CD set, Classic Elements (2 CD set), Chaos in Motion (4 CD set), SD/SD Smoothing to a Halt (EP), PBJ Two for the Price of One (EP), K&K, Joke and Haystack: An American Parable, Kuypers/No Rested Trip/Paul Baker/No Jackson Powders Trio Fusion (4 CD set), podcasts the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), Kuypers Live (14 CD set), the DMU Art Connection the Things They Did to You (2 CD set), Kuypers Seeing a Psychiatrist (3 CD set), Kuypers St. Paul 's (3 CD set), Kuypers the 2009 Poetry Game Show (3 CD set), Kuypers and the M'Amn of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Kuypers "40", Kuypers Sackson and Other Stories, Kuypers the Stories of Womans (amazon.com release), Kuypers "Dobro VeCa" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Tanna" (4 CD set), Kuypers "Letting It All Out", Kuypers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Kuypers "Make any Difference" (CD single), Kuypers/Hardrock "Across the Pond" (3 CD set),*