

Written by Stephanie Bursese and performed at Vox Populi Gallery on Sunday, April 14th, 2019 in conjunction with *Waiting Room*, a solo exhibition on view from March 2nd - April 14th, 2019.

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(session 2)

"Either it makes not the least bit of sense or it has exactly the sense I say it has"

In the realm of psychology, there is a hot term called "repetition compulsion" often defined by its relation to the "pleasure principle".

Your guide to the pleasure principle.

A clear glass pitcher sits on a frosted glass table. The pitcher is filled with cold water. I'm standing in front of the table and it's sunset. You are a kid and you've never done this before.

I'm so thirsty so I'm going to pick up that pitcher and drink the water. I don't need a glass and it doesn't matter.

On the edge of the pitcher there is a piece of the uneven glass and it gives me a little cut on my lip. Someone in your family puts out the pitcher every morning, it's a nice gesture.

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This is the water pitcher that is always on the table. I use it for years. When I drink the water, it holds a thin stream of blood.

Now I'm older and I don't know where that pitcher went.

My dentist said "You always have a cut on the inside of your lip, it looks like you are biting it, does it hurt?"

I said "Oh, a little bit, but not really, I've always had a cut there. Sometimes when I drink cold water, maybe I bite it by mistake?"

"Well it could get infected, I would try to stop biting it".

I know that the water tastes better with a little bit of blood in it. It feels good.

Every time I drink water, now, I say with focus "Don't bite your lip, the water doesn't taste better bloody".

It's not that I believe it, what I'm saying. But I know it's better this way.