

Pathogens injected Trojan-horse style

in *Crossing State Lines: An American Renga*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (March 29, 2011), overseen by Bob Holman and Carol Muske-Dukes, co-curators of the poetry stream of America: Now and Here, which is bringing art and artists to large and small communities across America.

Pathogens injected Trojan-horse style; temple walls crumble before a small lexicon, altered and stable, unsullied, too briefly a miracle. Our

neo-tragedy was their crazy carte-blanche.
You'd think they'd have read their Homer. But, like

slapping the moron beside the bully, we invade Babylon to
applause, which muted, a-hem, throats cleared for political posterity.

Soldiers are nothing more than pharmakon charged with the damned's duty,
enlisted to oaths that only finally matter when we wish they didn't. The

soldier-philosopher turns the gun on himself to salvage some meaning.
A smirk and crooked smile, Heh heh heh, sure showd em, didn't we, Dead-eye.

By
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AN AMERICAN Renga
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