

2008

# Inordinate Points

Eric Pankey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Pankey, Eric. "Inordinate Points." *The Iowa Review* 38.1 (2008): 108-109. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6418>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

ERIC PANKEY

*Inordinate Points*

The sky, medieval,  
  measured by inordinate points,  
Reveals, at the cumulus ridge,  
The mineral constituents of color.

::

Does it behoove us  
  to know  
That the present moment is denouement,  
The short end of an elliptical voyage?

::

*Objects*, Da Vinci says,  
  *seen with both eyes*  
*Appear rounder than objects*  
*Seen with just one.*

::

Roots in air,  
  figs gathered from thistle,  
Sky-writing, web-shadow, solvents . . .  
What we lack, mostly, is context.

::

Orpheus gives up  
  on his brooding adagio,  
Turns to cartography, maps the thousand ways  
Into (but none out of) the dark's flickering ether.

::

Spirits abandon their abode,

don masks.

Each mask tells its own story.

The mask, not the wearer, tells its own story.