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Shadow Puppets: Birds; Advances in the Form

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Shadow Puppets

BIRDS

Most shadow puppets are birds. This all depends on darkness. Birds prefer darkness. Cockatoo, parrot, lark have in common you can see through them; a density based on ambient light. They must live inside any number of things. Things without numbers. Name them:

And inside the body of the thing that is shadowed all require both hands, such as two flying birds two flying birds the hands are more supple than the rest of the body because they don’t belong to it.
BIRDS

behind frosted glass

the finger tracing laterally
across the back of a mirror as you might, walking down a street
let your fingertip trail along the pane

waist high the birds dissolve

brief lake
in the window of

reflect thereon. Therefore the

reflected sun. The wound in my hand
aches in weather, all weather, tattooed all
the way up to the elbow. Now it's winter. Birds cross in soft Vs, swift

signs in ice. The people pointing, though some of them, actually, are waving.
BIRDS

You'll need
thousands of hands. Splay
was first every finger
split, dispersed; a bone
can be
    feathered this thousand
driven hollow
        into flock
            of all things numbered
one through one-hundred. Never was so
asunder etc. so I
closed the window. He shuffled the cards. Something frightened
everything on the street.
ADVANCES IN THE FORM

The latest work in shadow puppets is being done on verbs. Make the form of a soar, of a veer. Make the tense clear. Distinguish the past perfect from the simple past. Neither was. And on into conditionals. Would have found, etc. Would have gone myself, but I wasn't home. Birdwatchers often use sign language because, though birds are fond of the human voice, they are downright hypnotized by the swaying hands and will walk right into them.