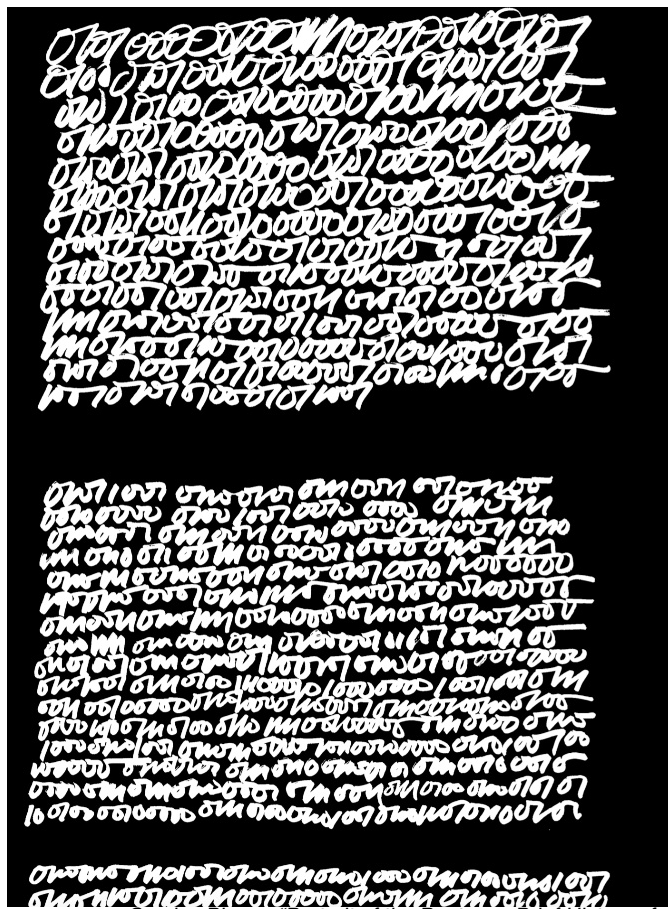




TRUST

ANNE MARIE WIRTH CAUCHON



Cursive Binary: "Portrait of the Poet as a Brief History of Humanity" (still) ~ Sasha Stiles

ETHER: numbing agent, intoxicant.

ETHER: immaterial and diaphanous tether between all things.

ETHER: digitized currency, without trust.

We aren't swaggering into the territory of ETHER. Perhaps you, like we, watch from a distance the digitized mutation of reality with something like indignation & unwitting surrender. Or perhaps you, like we, tiptoe into that territory with enchanted anticipation.

The screened life is a bifurcated life: a lush life, an amputated life. The digital life is a life gathered around a bottomless wellspring of possibility and cut through by a radical violence. The screen brings me my friend, my lover. But it taunts me too, keeping in sight what's perpetually out of reach.

Soon, these words will weave into a nonfungible token: an expression of nonequivalent surplus value and exchange, erupting from within Marxian equivalence, the bedrock of modernity.

There is no bedrock, there is no more modernity.

Perhaps, like you, we grieve, we rejoice.

Nothing is changed, nothing is the same.

So maybe the task is simple: keep three precious things; take care where you place your trust.

Anne Marie Wirth Cauchon is Editor-in-Chief of *Stillpoint Magazine*, and Creative Director of the PrairieCare Institute's Center for Applied Psychoanalysis, the mother of two, a PhD candidate in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, and the author of the novel *Nothing*.

Sasha Stiles is a poet, artist, and transhuman translator working at the intersection of text and technology. Her practice seeks to decipher the hidden language of the dawning Novacene, probing what it means to be human in a nearly post-human era. Stiles' work—from traditional verse and experimental poetry to binary-based art and collaborative AI poetics—has appeared in analog and virtual realms and been nominated for awards including the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, in addition to being published as clean NFTs. Her hybrid art and poetry collection [Technelegy](#) will be published Fall 2021.

Learn more about Cursive Binary and Stiles' work at sashastiles.com.

Portrait of the Poet as a Brief History of Humanity is shown here as a still from the looped moving image work on stillpointmag.org.

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