MARK POLIZZOTTI

Apollinaire

A legendary death delirious jubilee
Down with Wilhelm! Another name
To add to those—Lou Rouvère Pablo la jolie rousse
Your oldest crony René Dalize—pasted like scrapbook clippings
Into a modernist collage as dated as the splendors of war
Or the attitudes of Pope Pius X The little car
Stalls the lonely shepherdess stands watch
Over intractable bridges in ungrateful stages of renovation
Yet under them still flows the Seine À *tes amours*
Kostro naïve prince of the disjointed eye
Who could not see the logical future of all those
  isms

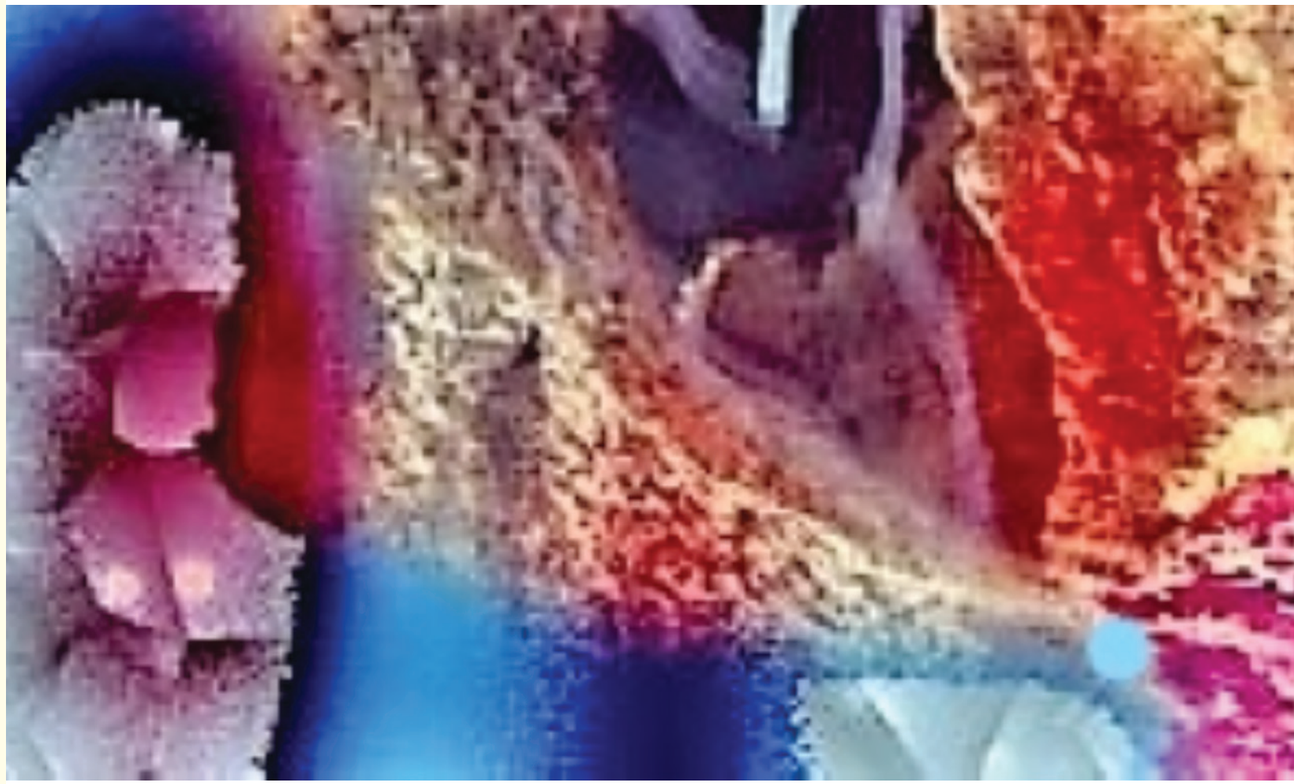
  Let them fade away fade away the voices
Voices on the Rhine on Rue Christine
Voices of hand grenades clear as moonlight
Let it pass the time when a woman's red lips
And blue eyes could strike fear
The hues and cries have since graced other palettes
Colors darkening like dried blood on a skull bandage
All that remains is the sweet hard rain of women's voices
Dead even in memory
Yet at times won't the voice of memory melt into rain so sweet
As to stand against death itself
Heartbeats tombstone Saint-Germain-des-Prés
The lyrebird becomes a plane
  becomes a jet
    becomes a rocket
The city quickens and dies
A new world forged and laid to rest in minutes

Tender like memories Guillaume
What we've lost will not atone for what we're made to keep

Mark Polizzotti's books include *Revolution of the Mind: The Life of André Breton* (rev. ed. Black Widow Press, 2009) and, most recently, *Sympathy for the Traitor: A Translation Manifesto* (MIT Press, 2018). He is currently writing a book about surrealism and preparing a translation of Rimbaud's poems.

FRED BROWN

Submarine, 2020
Digital photographic print, 24 x 24 in.



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