

BERN MULVEY
Character Readings

The key to successful study of kanji lies in breaking down the barrier of unfamiliarity. Once one can appreciate how a character is made up, how it acquired its shape and why it came into existence, then one is a long way towards achieving this end.

—Kenneth Henshall

Here

Speak
is a needle
balanced pin up
on the tongue
word
the miracle
a leaf
that unfurls later
in the heart

Here

the two readings of *truth*
a ripe field ready to cut
a person hung by the feet
dead

for not saying
is the flower
that opens
in the next day's
quiet

Here

face
is a canvas others write on
thin
the ideal skin
wide
for art must be seen
palimpsest

above a dream of body
the work waits