

Poetry

Readymade?

ASKING MARCEL
DUCHAMP'S *NUDE
DESCENDING A
STAIRCASE, NO. 2*
FOR PERMISSION TO
BE A WOMAN, BUT
ALSO NOT

by Klein
Voorhees

I'm chasing an image
in your shuddering
body, eyes frantic to pin down
a hip a breast
the sway
of a cock.

When I looked
in the mirror I was suddenly
too many
lines
to be any-
thing desired—myriad skins
lingering amidst one another weaving
in and out.

Myriad is from
myrios
meaning innumerable, infinite, boundless,
but also
exactly ten thousand

in a sheer train, a tangle
I cannot shed

innumerable ten thousands, legs fanning out
a fluttering behind flesh
descendant fractaling
your too manys
your incomprehensible.

Klein Voorhees (they/them/their) is a poet, artist, and translator from North Carolina. Their work has been featured or is forthcoming in *Asymptote Journal*, the *St. Mary's "Processing Crisis" Anthology*, and *perhappened*. You can find more of their work at www.kleinvoorhees.com