CMOK to YOU To: A Correspondence

NinaŽivančević, Marc JamesLéger

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oh well this amorphous thing
Dr X - this is on my list for today but i have a few tasks to take care of first and then i will light incense to get in the mood and get back to you on this polyamorphous thing ...

Well, perhaps you don’t need that incense unless there’s sense to it, if your bathroom is clogged etc- i hope my mnsn does not STINK, but hey, anything is possible It’s more like Education Sentimentale, young girl in big town(s) etc By the way, did you know that my grandma was a Richard Strauss fan? Plus I’ve written this text so long ago that now, while proofreading it, i try to understand it myself and not hate it.. Gooood-luck with it!!

I knew that about your grandmother, but i thought you said you were a big Johann Strauss fan, born in Vienna and all that - see what you’ve done to me with your poetess and young girl playing violin - i will read you and be the judge but it's going to be difficult after everything that has passed between us, so basically, we’ll see - i will put on my black outfit (like I’ve joined the Frenchie King gang or something), or is it a hippie theme? and get ready to be swept away
Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 13:37

I am no Johann Strauss fan-- you really think so lowly of me, I see, and, on top of, with that incense insense stuff- who wld like to read me? And don't, please do not read that book as it happens to be very self-revealing, it will definitively destroy our already destroyed prenups and you will never write or click to me again..

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 13:52

that was a lot of fun. since then I have become somewhat more familiar with the poésie d'auteur or politique de poésie or whatever they call it, avant-Byzantine -- what, no Strauss? i guess that means i won't be introducing you to my father

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 14:11

ha ha ha! I am sure you "were serious" about it! hey, it was nice meeting you! see you at the movies! i cannot leave Europe anyways, really and truly i’m forever stuck in one of these castles -- and i gather you have a different future. Say hello to your father though! he must be a nice guy!

NZ

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 15:36

oh sure, now that i made arrangements for us to meet in little tokyo you were not in little Tokyo like it’s nothing between us, just words, like ha ha and faster pussycat
like hi, I'm Nina Zivancevic
i did not say anything about the future
what i said was honest and true
like the movies
well, okay, so what's up with with Paris 8?
what's taking them so long?

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 16:08

what about Paris 8?
what's your plan exactly?
Xcuse me, but it's hard to make any plans with you -- cause YOU've
been changing yr mind!

If you'd like me to act on your behalf-- and I said I liked yr writing enough
and MORE than enough—I'd be happy to arrange smth

but 1. You have to tell exactly what sort of event (book promo, conference..?)
2. and when wld you like to do it
However, I must tell you (unless you're Bill Gates or someone like that, accustomed to frequent flights) it wld be wise for you to stay more than
a day or two in Europe, as it's really hard on yr body and nervewracking
plus, you're not rushing to a funeral, so a 4 or 5 day stay wld just be
more sane and healthier on you
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 16:31

well, it could be a lecture-performance on "what is to be done with Spring
Breakers" and it could be conjoined or not with a lounch of The Idea of
the Avant Garde, for which i could give my lecture but in Languedoc. so
that's two possibilities that would be easy enough to prepare - the SB is
more cavern-style

yes, i could stay 4 to 5 days, but not 10 days - a short while also
because i am not supposed to be outside the country - but i do now have
my passport - but damn, haven't read a word of yr book yet - wild horses could, t drive me away - of course you are aware of Sir Charles's Living on Thin Air

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 16:49

you DONT have to read it
by teeth skin you escaped
OK i authorize you-you dont have to read it

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 18:42

i'm reserving my comments for after reading the book but before that i want to say how i really enjoyed it and i think that you need to see a doctor or maybe even a veterinarian - your prose is terrific, stylish, and coyishly disarming - there seems to even be a détournement of balkan mysticism, a listlessly toying with the clichés; this prose work should not fool the inattentive reader - it is essentially film segments of acatalectic verse - we haven,t seen prose like this since michel deguy

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 20:32

????
To see a veterinarian? My dear pal, what is the name of the planet you grew up on?
It wasn't a planet for polite animals, was it??
Please give me its name... Now:
Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
27 March 2015 at 20:43

i see in the book you’ve characterized Jesus as an airline stewardess -
nice! ...

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 05:14

Thanx . Better than the advice to see the vet,,
You must also be quite busy with your work, Justin.
Thanks for devoting time to my own
Xxxxxx

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 09:43

i’m a slow reader but i can see you were trying to do something for all
human animals there

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 10:12

Here is the latest: 
Slow Justinian, you’ve got to help me now- my publisher Barncott press
needs a new blurb for the jacket.
Slow or not, or what? Can you kinfly supply one of your famous dittos
(you’ve said smth already to the effect that the book is not undear to
you)
I’ll try Gerard Malanga as well
so two of you could be on the back cover.
Sounds good to you?
really many xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and yyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy
and you can have the whole alphabet from mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm
Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 10:36

muzik to my ears
i will do my best for your B side
galant
promotional
literarily ravaged
and paired with one of the real warhol people!

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 11:54

okay but this is not something i normally do – i mean i’m not qualified -
the NYC review of books does not often invite the likes of me though i
was asked once to review something of a sci-fi novel by someone out of
the blue

anyway, this is option A:

_Nina Z. pursues the memory of (mostly) K. through places and times that
read like fictional worlds. She brings the underground in from the cold,
only to engage it in a conversation that is as coyishly sidelong as it is
enticingly sincere. Avant-byzantine mysticism with a smile._
– Marc James Léger, author of Brave New Avant Garde and Drive in Cinema

i’m working on options B to Zee as i go. let me know your honest opinion

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 13:47

dear
version B: i might take out the first line and switch Nina Z. to simply Z.
version C:

*If you don’t like typo’s, read this book.* – Marc James Léger,
Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 14:04

Thank you. That’s called giving a helping hand.
Thank you my friend.

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 14:25

Your kind action really inspires me to continue my organizing conferences on BNAG and DiC
But as you figured out
the academia out there is cold and cruel and it’s not enough it does not suffice to snap one’s finger for things to get done...
Wof wof
Kank u camarade MJL. The reason i put my early pics on is that i want to be reminded what innocense was all about

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 15:35

speaking of innocence: version D, and still reading on

Living on Air is nothing if not Nina Zivancevic – an avant-byzantine girl on the lower east side of fiction. The question is: who does she work for? – Marc James Léger, author of BNAG and DiC

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 17:04

here are some A to Zs but i did not make it all the way there i hope to make it up to you but right now i need to take a short break back to you shortly
Nina Zivancevic pursues the memory of K. through fictional worlds, urban scenes and warm interiors. She brings the underground in from the cold, engaging it in a conversation that is as coyishly sidelong as it is enticingly sincere. Avant-byzantine mysticism with a smile.

Nina Z. brings the underground in from the cold, engaging it in a conversation that is as coyishly sidelong as it is enticingly sincere. Avant-byzantine mysticism with a smile.

Nina Z. brings the underground in from the cold, engaging in a narrative that is as coyishly sidelong as it is enticingly sincere. Avant-byzantine mysticism with a smile.

Living on Air is nothing if not Nina Zivancevic – an avant-byzantine girl on the lower east side of fiction. The question is: who does she work for?

Bringing it all back home, Living on Air is nothing if not Nina Zivancevic. An avant-byzantine mystic on the lower east side of fiction.

If the purpose of poetry is to divert people from acting foolishly, then the purpose of Living on Air is to remind us that love is poetry.

The bourgeois novel is dead and the global era of protest turns poets into politicians. Living on Air channels the underground to render a lover’s tale woven of intimacy and art world striving.

It’s not boring.

Go East and West, young man. That’s what Nina Zivancevic did and she lived to tell the tale.

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**Zivancevic Nina** <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 16:00

Btw I wish I were that East German spy lovely Nixon’s girl in Washington .. She was well paid for a while but alas! Was quickly discovered as the double spying Irma..
Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 15:58

I’d replace lower with “lowest East side of fiction (than we get the double innuendo emphasized)
She works for (and only for) Midnight Cowboy aka Marc James Léger
Author of Nagg and Dick
(They are working out.. Their perforating perfect performance conference)

Envoyé de mon iPhone

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 18:47

now i,m certain that you are that East German spy
hiding in plain sight
a real gone gal
yeah, it’s going to be like the Ziegfried Kracauer Follies
or the Follies Burgers (as in Peter with the omelettes and coffee on u)
i’m okay with lowest East side in whichever combination you prefer

Envoyé de mon iPhoneZereforeiHam ...

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
28 March 2015 at 19:04

i think i,m around L or M

Nina Zizancevic needs my endorsement like a fish needs a bicycle.
– Marc James Léger, author of Nagg and Dick
Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 05:44

ha ha ha
stop it click-o maniac,
ah, i’m more like a maniac of letters than that famous spy
now let me ask you: who are you?
why can’t you get out of country?
do you have a prison bracelet like those guys who have to check in
every three days to a precinct (scuse my spelling) ?
Now as to the spelling IT IS damn tireing to think in 4 languages all the
time and check the spelling- no mashine or program wld help me that
way
have a nice Sunday my dear camrade and fellow-sufferer
yr queen of no place/no idea, really lost but more like in words than
actions..

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 10:07

yes i,m wanted in several countries for a crime i will not commit
prison bracelet - you could say that, yes, but the diagnosis described it
some other way
there are stories there,
and lots of no thanks, i gave at the dead letter office
but yes, i can make it out of the country, that is, if you would be so kind
as to dig a tunnel for me - there are no restrictions – except vegetarian
meals in the tunnels only

i have to think more about the endorsement, dear me, another day of
slave work

Look out Slavoj Žižek, here comes Darko Jelicic. If you want to know
what kind of person would say such a thing, read Living on Air. Rollover
Badiou, it’s the avant garde!
Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 10:21

voici les glissements progressifs de l'alphabet
what will the people at Paris 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 say ???

There are no seduction scenes in here and nothing to turn your crank. Nina Zivancevic doesn’t write that way – she’s not that kind of writer, and we’re all better off for it. She’s selective and she knows what she’s doing. Still, Living on Air is sexy, cool, fantastic – an intimate voyage into the underground lives of a literary maven and avant-byzantine empress.

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 10:31

Oh now we’re jumping into conclusions!
If I were u, I wouldn’t trust much either Zizek or Jelicic, much less Badiou (have u read his strange essay on Deleuze?)
In fact I don’t even know who you are
U might be one of these shopping spree consumers of critical, French, Slovenian cum Yale theories
But I guess u are young and handsome
And soon enough
U will understand how relative all these things are as to the starving in the streets of... Plus u wanted to hear my words
Plus you do not want to open yr mind to anything different than yr conditioned Academic... Ok
Thank u for the blurb and yr reading of ot
I will see if I should use yr negative outlook on the cover of my manuscript

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 10:57

hey – don’t be mad!! don’t write me a tirade …
you know i have to be on the lookout for banditas especially the one they call Ze Serbian
yes i read Badiou’s “theoretical essays” on Zezeuze and i agree, there is too much “bad infinity” - as for the French elections, you can make your Faustian bargain and i will see you at the little bar on the rue Maurice Thorez
i know that you’re a leading figure in the New York school and the avant-jazz drolling club - and so, i hope you have an open dust jacket

I first met Nina Zivancevic when she was a waitress at a restaurant with an Art Deco theme called Twenties. Since then she’s built quite a reputation for herself as an artiste, writing poetry, performing on stage, sending me emails. Her latest accomplishment is Living on Air. I wish I had the words to describe it but I’ve never read Frank O’Hara and people like that and so what do I know. References to Lawrence Durrell don’t quite do it either. Living on Air is what it feels like to be in love and to visit Paris, New York, San Francisco and every other place in the literary imaginary. It’s tender, worldly, and it’s sure to make you smile.

a photo of photo of a film in a film museum in an electronic letter in the mind of a cat

Image: Photograph of Musidora in a film still from Louis Feuillade's Les Vampires (1915) in the Cinema Museum in Frankfurt

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:09

let me know if this works better for you
my aim is true and i wouldn’t mind it if you wore me on your sleeve
what am i your sycophant elephant in the chat room or something

Living on Air is avant-byzantine prose at its finest and Zivancevic’s personal take on the life of a literary maven resembles Deleuze and Guattari’s rhizome more than it does the traditional network or anything having to do with “truth procedure.” Eileen Myles eat your heart out.

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:18

hey, I hope that you are well and this message finds you at an opportune moment. I’ve had the chance to read your terrific book and I’m very
happy to write an endorsement for you. It’s my privilege. Please find below a suggested endorsement. Let me know if you would like me to lengthen or shorten it or add sparkles or em-dashes or anything else. Your wish is my command. I expect I will never hear from you ever again, but that’s the risk you take.

Living on Air is what I imagine Isabelle Huppert’s character Isabelle in Hal Hartley’s Amateur would write. Now all we need is a two-piece leather outfit and an electric drill at a lecture-performance and we’re in business. Chris Kraus get a life.

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Zivancevic Nina <zivancevic65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:29

And what’s yr diagnosis?
I am a paranoid obsessive and perversely narcissistic kleptomaniac.. so what about you? Tomorrow at Paris 3 ( otherwise called la Sorbonne Nouvelle) I will ask Bruno Pequinot to arrange a conference for you. Or to indicate how I cld go about it.
The vet gave me a lot of pills but my fur still keeps shedding..I think I am going to die soon , camarade Léger ,and our letters are going to be the only testimony to my sanity

---

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:34

whatever you do, don’t take 100 horse pills and not call me in the morning
the world needs you
who is this Bruno? one of your dungeon pals?
and now, something completely different:

An endorsement by the likes of me could ruin a writer’s reputation for life. That tells you something about Living on Air – a risky venture if ever there was one. Still, you have to hand it to Nina Zivancevic, or to her publisher, or to the bookstore, depending on how you look at it.
Film poster for Hal Hartley’s *Amateur* (1994). Courtesy of Possible Films.
The last take is beautiful
As u can tell I’m a sucker for Beauty
Oh! My sublime friend!
If you only knew.. How much I miss you! More than Plotinus and st Augustine together
If I only worked on our extraterrestrial communicational commuting
You’d be able to brush up on the conventions and
Forget the Ghettoisation of my writing and persona altogether !
Why avant Byzantine ? Why do we need that ghetto like categorising
Black lesbian Marxist
White gay Foucault
Happy Canadian Marc
Fucked up Russian judo champion
C’mon Marc, u and I can do better than that...

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:49

i like you all ghetto :

Among the fleas in Marc’s flea circus, Nina Zivancevic is the one that causes me to rethink, or man the torpedos, not sure which one. Living on Air merely confirmed what I already knew: life’s rich pageant is no fun without the challenge of the underground. A literary diary full of surprises and avant-byzantine verse.

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:53

maybe like this, for good measure ?

Among the fleas in Marc’s flea circus, Nina Zivancevic is the one that causes me to rethink, or make a sandwich, not sure which one. Living on Air merely confirmed what I already knew: life is no fun without the
oh well this amorphous thing - 120

challenge of the ghetto underground. A literary diary full of surprises and avant-byzantine verse.
– Happy Canadian Marc

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 12:00

Nina, let me know what you think of the below possibility
if that doesn’t work then i’ll re-apply

Living on Air is avant-byzantine prose at its ghetto finest, and Nina Zivancevic is a Germany spy, I’m sure of it. Someone should do something about this fucked up Russian. Eileen Myles, where are you when we need you?

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 11:54

Oh .. Think u r confusing me with
Yet another gstring gfriend of yours..
Who dares take these pills in yr company
Who dares calling u at night?
Silverslinger will beat them up all..
Now onto more cultural matters
Please Google out Bruno Pequinot
He’s running the Film and Art Media dept at Sorbonne nouvelle
I’ll give him something to remember- a Byzantine blow job (wash shampoo and creamy head) so that he arranges that conference 4 u

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 12:09

now you’ve got me all serious
you have this kind of white gay Foucault word power
still, if you want to do me a favour
oh well this amorphous thing - 121

i would like to be on France culture
there is somebody i have to get back at

Living on Air is the finest work of prose-fiction this side of Nathalie Cardot, and Nina Zivancevic is the most delightful literary maven to have blessed the halls of the Sorbonne.
– Bruno Pequinot

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 12:14

more about whose confusing who and wha

Reading Living on Air is like counting down from A to Zee. It’s like, she has this kind of white gay Foucault word power. You find yourself thinking like her, as if her world is your world, and then you’re doing weird things you didn’t know you wanted to do. It’s like, she says she’s not feminist, but can she be trusted?

Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 12:24

this one is blurb x, XXX
i figure i earned my day’s wages
with the devil behind me and death at my side

I gave up fiction for cultural theory around 1991. I figured the bourgeois novel was finished anyway and so what more could it do. Living on Air I can see has come to the same conclusion but keeps on writing, animated as it is by personal and literary worlds and the compulsion to get up in the middle of the night. It’s irrepressible, like a black lesbian marxist.
Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 12:42

i suppose that my bateau ivre has either reached its destination or is lost at sea - i hope that there is something in my attachments that can be rescued or recombined - thank you for this nice visit

Why did Nina Zivancevic write Living on Air? That is the question. My guess is she needed something to do, someone or something to love. Disarming at the utmost and fanciful at its avant-finest. Z is for Nina Zivancevic. Living on Air is for those friends, lovers and comrades who will read it. A personal travelogue by a literary maven and underground empress.

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 13:17

Marc! If I were a Visigoth I would've married you on the spot and had kitties with you of every shape and colour, but the absurdity of life is--

You tell me:

At any rate you are the eternal K I've been looking for, that is, according to the Egyptian cosmology, the eternal moving principle which moves from one body to another?
And...lovely you supported this early amorphous text, now I'm writing another one,
It's more structured, describes my PhD days in France...I'm a slow writer here and
I hate novel as genre but everyone wants u to sell yr product anyway.
Xxxxxxxxx

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 13:52

Auyy now you talk passion..
Did u know that Myles lusted over me but really Lily Marlene
But so rude and waspish and uncooth..
Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
To: Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 15:18

and that jeans and t-shirt look
like it's the empire of Clovis and the Saxons have not even left germany

Poem for Lily Marlene

I lurped up Living on Air like a bukkake princess.
– Gerard Malanga

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 16:34

Hahaha Marc! Where are you??!!
My life was so sad without your miaow miaow miu...

Zivancevic Nina <zivancevicn65@gmail.com>
To: Marc Léger <leger.mj@gmail.com>
29 March 2015 at 16:45

Ha ha ha
Thank you Momo Schmomo for giving my private address to MJL
He is my virtual cloud and there are 9 of us in it
His cat is better than Satrapi’s psycho killer’s pussy cat