

the last
french-fried
potato
and other poems

by emmett williams



1967
A Great Bear Pamphlet

THE LAST FRENCH-FRIED POTATO

EMMETT WILLIAMS

The Last French-Fried Potato
Emmett Williams

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the last french-fried potato
the ultimate poem, version two

(as improvised by robert filliou and emmett williams during the exhibition *l'aujourd'hui de demain* in the musée palais saint-vaast at arras, march 20, 1964. performers eat a french-fried potato before each improvised phrase. the poem lasts as long as the potatoes hold out.)

no more hotdogs
plus de vrais amants
no more wives
plus d'ensilage de maïs
no more bellybuttons
plus d'éléphants
no more tomorrows
plus de beurre salé
no more stupidity
plus de lampes d'aladin
no more feelings of guilt
plus de ruches blanches
no more children
plus de sirènes
no more ontological critics
plus de rares classiques de ce siècle
no more good intentions
plus d'immaterialisation
no more jealousy
plus de piles wonder s
no more knocking at the door
plus de listes provisoires
no more gin and tonic
plus de lèvres
no more money

plus de participation cosmique
no more personal appearances

plus de dindons
no more hot baths

plus de promenades
no more holes in my shoes

plus de camarades
no more bodhidharma

plus de collaboration
no more bad dreams

plus d'érotique d'abjection
no more sugarbeets

plus de nescafé
no more thelonious monk

plus de permis de pêche
no more prayers

plus de vieux linge
no more answers

plus de mimosas en fleur
no more inspiration

plus de greffes d'écorce
no more limited editions

plus de sémantique générale
no more turtleneck sweaters

plus de sang versé
no more cats

plus de filles d'acier
no more dishwashing

plus de tendresse
no more foghorns

plus de phénomènes paranormaux
no more todays

plus de plantes vertes

no more lack of money
plus d'amants isobares
no more toothaches
plus d'évolution
no more birds
plus de ceinture noires quatrième dan
no more letters to write
plus d'aujourd'hui
no more harpsichords
plus de tartines beurrées
no more czechoslovakian beer
plus de bateaux qui basculent
no more earle brown
plus d'albums de famille
no more big toes
plus de fantassins
no more carbon copies
plus de grenouilles
no more revolutions in art
plus d'asphyxie des racines
no more yellow roses
plus de demain
no more prison bars
plus de techniques de communication
no more marijuana
plus de choeurs des lavandières
no more bedroom slippers
plus de châtaignes bouillies
no more snoring
plus de murs fleuris
no more laughter
plus de vulves comme casse-noisettes
no more apples

plus de rideaux rouges

no more signal toothpaste

plus de tournesols

no more loving

plus de pattes foulées

no more can openers

plus de certitude infallible

no more armpits

plus de fesses exquisement agiles

no more greek islands

plus de fenêtres ouvertes

no more questions

plus de petits cadeaux

no more cooperation

plus de wagons-lits

no more afterthoughts

plus de mayonnaise

no more underwear to wash

plus de dépassement de la problématique de l'art

no more hard ons

plus de menhirs

i have just eaten the last french-fried potato

il dit: je viens juste de manger la dernière pomme frite

i wonder who, way back in the dawn of history, ate the first














il dit: je me demande qui, dans la nuit des temps, a mangé la première

**litany for marcel duchamp, who recently shaved the wife of
francesco del giocondo***

Mona chauss 21, rue Moines 17e	MAR	04.58
Mona Mme F 79, avenue Bosquet 7e	SOL	75.20
Mona F entrepr. peint 38, rue François-ler 8e	ELY	79.16
Mona F 26, avenue Marceau 8e	ELY	71.09
Mona Mme 73, avenue Bosquet 7e	INV	17.61
Mona D'Arvy 12, rue Ganneron 18e	EUR	25.69
Mona-Dol art dram 25, rue Caulaincourt 18e	MON	45.73
Mona Goya art dram. 27, rue Pier-Demours 17e	MAC	53.54
Mona Lisa tric couture sports luxe 56, rue de Rennes 6e	LIT	83.50
Mona-Lise maroq. 231, rue St-Honoré	OPE	21.42
Mona-Rybert couture bonnet. 22, rue Douai 9e	TRI	42.38
Monacevitch L 183, rue Alésia 14e	BLO	58.26
Monacevitch Mme march. chauss. 63, rue Didot	LEC	87.98
Monaco (secret S.A.S. le Prince de) 2, rue Conseiller-Collignon 16e	TRO	17.15
Monagaz 148, bd Haussmann 8e	CAR	51.03
Monahan F avec cour app. 52, avenue Champa-Elysées 8e	BAL	86.24
- même adresse BAL 34.97		
Monahan F 6, place Palais-Bourbon 7e	INV	41.46

*First printed on the poster of the exhibition **La Fête à la Gioconde**, Paris, October 1965.

duet

 art of my dart
 R arrow of my marrow
 butter of my abutter
 R bode of my abode
 cope of my scope
 R curry of my eden
 den of my scurry
 R do of my ado
 ember of my member
 R eel of my feel
 fort of my effort
 R flexibility of my inflexibility
 go of my ego
 R gain of my again
 hence of my whence
 R him of my whim
 inky of my dinky
 R inter of my hinter
 jog of my ajog
 R johnny o of my o johnny o
 kipper of my skipper
 R kin of my skin
 licker of my flicker
 R lapstick of my slapstick
 mission of my emission

- R motion of my emotion
 🍷 nip of my snip
 R now of my enow
 🍷 oiler of my toiler
 R orpheus of my morpheus
 🍷 port of my sport
 R patter of my spatter
 🍷 quash of my squash
 R quiescence of my acquiescence
 🍷 raving of my craving
 R ream of my cream
 🍷 scent of my ascent
 R swan of my aswan
 🍷 tiff of my stiff
 R top motion of my stop motion
 🍷 unction of my function
 R urging of my purging
 🍷 vent of my event
 R vocative of my evocative
 🍷 well of my swell
 R wallow-tail of my swallow-tail
 🍷 x-factor of my ex-factor
 R x of my ax
 🍷 ye of my aye
 R y of my my
 🍷 zip zap zoff of my o zip o zap o zoff
 R zim zam zoom of my o zim o zam o zoom

resolutions

i

warm a heart
 hold a hand
 lend an ear
 pat a back
 light up a face
 tickle a funnybone
 dry an eye
 surprise a child
 woo a sweetheart
 toast a bride
 welcome a stranger
 wave a goodbye
 shout a bravo
 blow a kiss
 mend a quarrel
 ease a pain
 boost a morale
 start a tradition

ii

warm a hand
 hold an ear
 lend a back
 pat a face
 light up a funnybone
 tickle an eye
 dry a child
 surprise a sweetheart
 woo a bride
 toast a stranger
 welcome a goodbye
 wave a bravo
 shout a kiss
 blow a quarrel
 mend a pain
 ease a morale
 boost a tradition
 start a heart

iii

warm an ear
 hold a back
 lend a face
 pat a funnybone
 light up an eye
 tickle a child
 dry a sweetheart
 surprise a bride
 woo a stranger
 toast a goodbye
 welcome a bravo
 wave a kiss
 shout a quarrel
 blow a pain
 mend a morale
 ease a tradition
 boost a heart
 start a hand

iv

warm a back
 hold a face
 lend a funnybone
 pat an eye
 light up a child
 tickle a sweetheart
 dry a bride
 surprise a stranger
 woo a goodbye
 toast a bravo
 welcome a kiss
 wave a quarrel
 shout a pain
 blow a morale
 mend a tradition
 ease a heart
 boost a hand
 start an ear

v

warm a face
 hold a funnybone
 lend an eye
 pat a child
 light up a sweetheart
 tickle a bride
 dry a stranger
 surprise a goodbye
 woo a bravo
 toast a kiss
 welcome a quarrel
 wave a pain
 shout a morale
 blow a tradition
 mend a heart
 ease a hand
 boost an ear
 start a back

vi

warm a funnybone
 hold an eye
 lend a child
 pat a sweetheart
 light up a bride
 tickle a stranger
 dry a goodbye
 surprise a bravo
 woo a kiss
 toast a quarrel
 welcome a pain
 wave a morale
 shout a tradition
 blow a heart
 mend a hand
 ease an ear
 boost a back
 start a face

vii

warm an eye
 hold a child
 lend a sweetheart
 pat a bride
 light up a stranger
 tickle a goodbye
 dry a bravo
 surprise a kiss
 woo a quarrel
 toast a pain
 welcome a morale
 wave a tradition
 shout a heart
 blow a hand
 mend an ear
 ease a back
 boost a face
 start a funnybone

viii

warm a child
 hold a sweetheart
 lend a bride
 pat a stranger
 light up a goodbye
 tickle a bravo
 dry a kiss
 surprise a quarrel
 woo a pain
 toast a morale
 welcome a tradition
 wave a heart
 shout a hand
 blow an ear
 mend a back
 ease a face
 boost a funnybone
 start an eye

ix

warm a sweetheart
 hold a bride
 lend a stranger
 pat a goodbye
 light up a bravo
 tickle a kiss
 dry a quarrel
 surprise a pain
 woo a morale
 toast a tradition
 welcome a heart
 wave a hand
 shout an ear
 blow a back
 mend a face
 ease a funnybone
 boost an eye
 start a child

x

warm a bride
 hold a stranger
 lend a goodbye
 pat a bravo
 light up a kiss
 tickle a quarrel
 dry a pain
 surprise a morale
 woo a tradition
 toast a heart
 welcome a hand
 wave an ear
 shout a back
 blow a face
 mend a funnybone
 ease an eye
 boost a child
 start a sweetheart

xi

warm a stranger
 hold a goodbye
 lend a bravo
 pat a kiss
 light up a quarrel
 tickle a pain
 dry a morale
 surprise a tradition
 woo a heart
 toast a hand
 welcome an ear
 wave a back
 shout a face
 blow a funnybone
 mend an eye
 ease a child
 boost a sweetheart
 start a bride

xii

warm a goodbye
 hold a bravo
 lend a kiss
 pat a quarrel
 light up a pain
 tickle a morale
 dry a tradition
 surprise a heart
 woo a hand
 toast an ear
 welcome a back
 wave a face
 shout a funnybone
 blow an eye
 mend a child
 ease a sweetheart
 boost a bride
 start a stranger

xiii

warm a bravo
 hold a kiss
 lend a quarrel
 pat a pain
 light up a morale
 tickle a tradition
 dry a heart
 surprise a hand
 woo an ear
 toast a back
 welcome a face
 wave a funnybone
 shout an eye
 blow a child
 mend a sweetheart
 ease a bride
 boost a stranger
 start a goodbye

xiv

warm a kiss
 hold a quarrel
 lend a pain
 pat a morale
 light up a tradition
 tickle a heart
 dry a hand
 surprise an ear
 woo a back
 toast a face
 welcome a funnybone
 wave an eye
 shout a child
 blow a sweetheart
 mend a bride
 ease a stranger
 boost a goodbye
 start a bravo

xv

warm a quarrel
 hold a pain
 lend a morale
 pat a tradition
 light up a heart
 tickle a hand
 dry an ear
 surprise a back
 woo a face
 toast a funnybone
 welcome an eye
 wave a child
 shout a sweetheart
 blow a bride
 mend a stranger
 ease a goodbye
 boost a bravo
 start a kiss

xvi

warm a pain
 hold a morale
 lend a tradition
 pat a heart
 light up a hand
 tickle an ear
 dry a back
 surprise a face
 woo a funnybone
 toast an eye
 welcome a child
 wave a sweetheart
 shout a bride
 blow a stranger
 mend a goodbye
 ease a bravo
 boost a kiss
 start a quarrel

xvii

warm a morale
 hold a tradition
 lend a heart
 pat a hand
 light up an ear
 tickle a back
 dry a face
 surprise a funnybone
 woo an eye
 toast a child
 welcome a sweetheart
 wave a bride
 shout a stranger
 blow a goodbye
 mend a bravo
 ease a kiss
 boost a quarrel
 start a pain

xviii

warm a tradition
 hold a heart
 lend a hand
 pat an ear
 light up a back
 tickle a face
 dry a funnybone
 surprise an eye
 woo a child
 toast a sweetheart
 welcome a bride
 wave a stranger
 blow a bravo
 mend a kiss
 ease a quarrel
 boost a pain
 start a morale

new york
 january 2nd, 1967

seen

version one

i've seen roses
twelve feet tall
with hairy green noses
and that's not all

version two

i have seen roses
six feet tall
with hairy blue noses
and that's not all

zenzen*

i love you totally

i love you entirely

i love you quite

i love you completely

i love you [not] at all

* (The adverbs and the final adverbial phrase are taken, in the order of their appearance in the definition of **zenzen**, from M. Takahashi's Romanized English-Japanese/Japanese-English Dictionary, Taiseido Shobo Co., Tokyo.

Emmett Williams

was born April 4th, 1925, in Greenville, South Carolina, grew up in Virginia, and lived in Europe from 1949 to 1966. He studied poetry with John Crowe Ransom at Kenyon College, took courses in anthropology at the University of Paris, and was an assistant to the ethnologist Paul Radin in Lugano, Switzerland. He collaborated with Daniel Spoerri and Claus Bremer in the Darmstadt circle of concrete poetry, dynamic theater, etc., from 1957 to 1959. In the early sixties he was European coordinator of Fluxus, and a founding member of the *Domaine Poétique* in Paris. His close friendship and collaboration with Robert Filliou resulted in many co-productions and co-inventions. His publications include **konkretionen**, Krefeld 1958; **ja, es war noch da**, an opera, first printed in *nota*, Munich 1960; **poésie et cetera américaine**, an anthology of action poetry, Paris 1963; **13 variations on 6 words of gertrude stein**, Galerie der Spiegel, Cologne 1965; **rotapoems**, variations on a poem from Diter Rot's lyrical collection **Scheisse**, Edition Hansjörg Mayer, Stuttgart 1966, and **sweethearts**, a long erotic concrete poem cycle, Stuttgart 1967. His theater essays have appeared in *Das Neue Forum*, *Berner Blätter*, Ulmer Theater and other European magazines. Williams translated and reanecdoted Daniel Spoerri's **Topographie Anecdotée du Hasard (An Anecdoted Topography of Chance)**, collaborated with Claes Oldenburg on **Store Days**, and edited **An Anthology of Concrete Poetry**, all published by the Something Else Press, New York. His latest work, **a boy and a bird**, is a long "building" poem, constructed of shifting linguistic relationships.

