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“In image and in language, *a* contemplates the ghostly interstices that persist when objects lose their handler. [...] The goal is not to stave off death but to trace its spreading.”

— Diane Ward

a by Sophie Robinson

Back Cover Art by Susan Simpson and Ken Ehrlich

Foreword by Caroline Bergvall

Afterword by Diane Ward

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How do you trace death? What do you make of the useless objects left behind? Conjuring Cage, Stein, and Francesca Woodman, British poet Sophie Robinson documents the detritus of sudden loss. Layering word and image, object and subject, the said with the unsayable, *a* is as Caroline Bergvall writes, “[a] work of mourning. Angry, torn, hardly daring to remember”—a textual performance of “love that dares to speak as queer.”

a is published as part of the TrenchArt: Tracer Series, with a Foreword by Caroline Bergvall, an Afterword by Diane Ward, and collaborative visual art by Ken Ehrlich and Susan Simpson. TrenchArt is an annual series of new literature, selected and edited to create a textual conversation between some of the most dynamic and exciting writing today—and tomorrow.

About the Author

Sophie Robinson was born in 1985, and lives and works in London. She has an MA in Poetic Practice from Royal Holloway, University of London, and is currently researching a PhD in Queer Poetics. In 2006, she received the Phillipa Hicks award for Creativity and Innovation from the University of London, and her first chapbook, *Killin’Kittenish!* Was published by yt communications in 2006. Her creative and critical work has also been published in *Pilot*, *How2*, *Dusie*, and the *Opened anthology*.