

## **Commentary on Mermaid Anatomy:**

It's funny what mashes up to become a story. "Mermaid Anatomy" started with a re-reading of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid" - it is so weird! Perversely religious, fairy tale rife with female desire and its corollary (necessary?) repression. I couldn't believe how one could move from the Andersen story to the Daryl Hannah and the Disney versions, which are so clean, desexed. Then all this mermaid paraphernalia got cross-referenced to the true story of the Little Mermaid sculpture in Copenhagen, which is regularly defaced by anarchists and saboteurs. In the end, however, the mermaid iconography turns out to be a misreading: not mermaid, but medusa.

Many of Lena's quotes are taken directly from the Situationists. The Situationist notion of the *dérive*, defined by Wikipedia as "an unplanned journey through a landscape, usually urban," became important to me when I started thinking about the ways in which the expenditure of raw energy, regardless of goal or destination, held the potential to free someone from depression. Lena's particular energy also expresses itself in the story's sentences, which each function as a sort of cul-de-sac. When reading the story, the sentences leave me breathless, and each one stops before it can tell a complete story.