

**Black Art** By Amiri Baraka

Poems are bullshit unless they are  
teeth or trees or lemons piled  
on a step. Or black ladies dying  
of men leaving nickel hearts  
beating them down. Fuck poems  
and they are useful, wd they shoot  
come at you, love what you are,  
breathe like wrestlers, or shudder  
strangely after pissing. We want live  
words of the hip world live flesh &  
coursing blood. Hearts Brains  
Souls splintering fire. We want poems  
like fists beating niggers out of Jocks  
or dagger poems in the slimy bellies  
of the owner-jews. Black poems to  
smear on girdlemamma mulatto bitches  
whose brains are red jelly stuck  
between 'lizabeth taylor's toes. Stinking  
Whores! we want "poems that kill."  
Assassin poems, Poems that shoot  
guns. Poems that wrestle cops into alleys  
and take their weapons leaving them dead  
with tongues pulled out and sent to Ireland. Knockoff  
poems for dope selling wops or slick halfwhite  
politicians Airplane poems, rrrrrrrrrrrrrr  
rrrrrrrrrrrrrr . . . tuhtuhtuhtuhtuhtuhtuhtuhtuhtuh  
... rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr . . . Setting fire and death to  
whities ass. Look at the Liberal  
Spokesman for the jews clutch his throat  
& puke himself into eternity . . . rrrrrrrr  
There's a negroleader pinned to  
a bar stool in Sardi's eyeballs melting  
in hot flame Another negroleader  
on the steps of the white house one  
kneeling between the sheriff's thighs  
negotiating coolly for his people.  
Aggh . . . stumbles across the room . . .  
Put it on him, poem. Strip him naked  
to the world! Another bad poem cracking  
steel knuckles in a jewlady's mouth  
Poem scream poison gas on beasts in green berets  
Clean out the world for virtue and love,  
Let there be no love poems written  
until love can exist freely and  
cleanly. Let Black people understand  
that they are the lovers and the sons  
of warriors and sons  
of warriors Are poems & poets &  
all the loveliness here in the world

We want a black poem. And a  
Black World.  
Let the world be a Black Poem  
And Let All Black People Speak This Poem  
Silently  
or LOUD

Source: *Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones* (1979)