

it is hard to keep in touch today with a world you cannot undo  
it is hard to understand the complexities of history ignoring herstory  
the women i underline are few, their names scattered through pages like bullets  
a single 22 on page 101, a 30-06 on page 9

there are a few like Emiline Pankhurst who did the wrong thing and  
Maria Bochkarieva who trained the Women's Battalion of Death

who couldn't see their freedom in Bolshevik freedom  
and prattled conciliatory praise to the provisional government

how much did Alexandra Krhokhlova assist Kuleshov who lies next to the man  
with a cloud in his pants

while a thunderstorm of oppression flashed acrossed the continent

and I imagine In Alexandra's diary the cabin flooding,  
the natural finds of flood and fire  
while bourgeois men sunned in filmic holiday shores

I think of Liva Agochamba pushing down Potemkin steps  
baby carriages of slavery

and Vera Baranovskaya sitting by the bier of husband and father  
repressing a grin

and Vera Maretskaya shooting the only man she ever loved  
(now did she?) the best sharp shooter of the Reds

and I bring out my old octagon barrel blueing with pride  
target practicing

making a video on how to shoot and lie and stare

no female so stupid again as Mother

*Brian Hunter*

Written while a film student  
at SFSU 1973-5 and  
saved + sent some years  
later by a professor.