

This is not a text about truth.

True story.

They shut me up in Prose -
[...] Because they liked me "still"
- Emily Dickinson

The case of Schneider is the case of a soldier who, after being injured during the war, becomes a study subject that fascinates Merleau-Ponty. Recounting the soldier's condition can turn the 'quiverings of the skin' into mosquito bites.

Schneider can undertake habitual 'concrete' actions such as swatting a mosquito which is biting him; but when asked to perform apparently similar 'abstract' actions, such as pointing to a place on his body which is being touched, he has somehow to activate the appropriate region, to induce 'quiverings of the skin'. Merleau-Ponty's preliminary suggestion is that what underlies this difference is Schneider's inability to engage in non-serious, hypothetical, courses of action. (Baldwin in Merleau-Ponty 2004: 101)¹

Schneider is the mosquito that helps Merleau-Ponty's readers point towards where his arguments rest and sometimes feed of their skin. Stories are 'concrete', engaging, touch inducing. Stories are narratives that wear the skin of facts. Theories, on the other hand, appear as interpretations; they are geometries of thought.

The following text is not a mosquito although it may employ mosquitoes. This text is a quivering of my skin, it is movement within stillness.

¹ Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 2004. "Selections from the *Phenomenology of Perception*". In *Basic Writings*. Edited by Thomas Baldwin. London and New York: Routledge.