



# ted burke

the voyage of the snarky

## Ted Burke



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### Location

San Diego, California,

### Birthday

July 15

### Title

Bookseller, writer, musician

### Bio

Bookseller, musician, writer and poet living and working in San Diego, California. His writing has appeared in the San Diego Reader, Kicks, San Diego Door, Roadwork, Revolt in Style, and City Works. His poems have been included in the anthologies Small Rain: 8 poets from San Diego (1996, DG Wills Books), Ocean Hiway: eight poets in San Diego (1981, Wild Mustard Press), and is the author of many chapbooks, including Hand Grenade, Open Every Window, No One Home and City Times, limited editions published by his own Old House Press.

### MY RECENT COMMENTS

"Obtuse, yes. And I've never seen "Shawshank Redemption". I'll settle f..."  
10:58PM

"I will maintain that her book "Sexual Personae" is a first rate piece..."  
8:08PM

"Since you've gone ahead and posted about this on your blog, might you reciprocate..."  
7:23PM

"You're obtuse as well as being a snit fitter. Say good night, Nik."  
5:28PM

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JUNE 17, 2009 5:28PM

## Wither Gaga?

**RATE:** 0

A brief piece appears in Slate this week that wonders how smart dance hit phenomenon [Lady Gaga](#) happens to be with her conspicuous cherry-picking of style points from previous avant garde trends, with some discussion of the specific debt she might owe to Madonna. The article's theme is that there is a constant recycling of cultural artifacts that, it seems, a few people manage to package and market into lucrative careers, but one might make note a sub theme that goes un-commented upon; the recycling of old feature story ideas. If one were to change names, references and dates, we'd have the same sort of article that appeared, a dozen a month, during the mid eighties and early nineties that attempted to parse Madonna. What Lady Gaga and Madonna both share is not only pretentiousness but a talent for recycling dated avant-garde gestures and an instinct of what they can get away with in a climate where even the recent past is forgotten. The basic difference between the two, it seems, is that Lady Gaga would really like to be taken seriously, as one can see in her continued references to Warhol, performance art, Bowie, the Bauhaus school. It's not that I don't doubt the young woman's admiration for the artists whose tricks, gestures and signature style have influenced her; like Bowie, she appears to know a bit about experimental art and the like. What I get, though, is a regret and resentment of being born 50 years too late for the generation of edgy art she obviously admires; she wants to, it seems, to join the ranks of her heroes not only through her music and choreography but by trying to talk her way through the clubhouse doorway. Madonna's pretentiousness was several decibels turned down.

Not a raconteur, as is Bowie, she kept her declarations relatively spare and didn't dwell long on her extra-musical projects, such as the monumentally vacant product that was her book "Sex". She seems to have realized that she wasn't a public intellectual and didn't try to be anything of the sort. One might remember the [Esquire magazine interview with her conducted by Norman Mailer](#). Mailer was ready to do for her image as he had done for Marilyn Monroe, to put forth a case that Madonna, like Norma Jean, was a brilliant and profound artist on terms entirely her own. While Mailer's controversial biography on the actress resulted in fanciful if touchingly expressed speculation, Madonna seemed unwilling to follow Mailer's blustery lead. She gave terse answers, sticking to what she knew, the result being one of Mailer's sorrier moments during his late career.

Her energy and her wits brought her back to the music, a mix of obvious borrowings, re-fittings and confections of compatible musical styles--disco, techno, rock-- and had the self-honesty that although it was arguable that was an artist with a capital "A", she was, as she remained on our radar, a confirmed A-List celebrity. She, like Bowie, appeared to have gotten over the urge to prove that they're still the ones who define what is current on the emerging scene and are content to work at their own pace, on terms they've

### TED BURKE'S FAVORITES



Verbal Remedy



John Hughes



Dorinda Fox



Paul Levinson



Joan Walsh



karentemp

[invite friends](#)

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### UPDATES



Nurse Jackie/Carmela and Eddie/Father

Phil

posted by: [Paul Levinson](#)



Dear Pope: Please Step Away From "New World Order"

posted by: [Verbal Remedy](#)



D.C. Part 1: Uygher Protest, Scientology, Pickle Factory

posted by: [Dorinda Fox](#)



Open Chat: Hide your nuts!

posted by: [Kerry Lauerman](#)



Dickens, revolutionary violence and trauma

posted by: [Laura Miller](#)



No, don't click on this!

posted by: [Joan Walsh](#)

"Well, I did read your site, Batman, and now I won't, and it's that simple, ain't..."

4:40PM

TED BURKE'S LINKS

New list

- Salon
- New York Times
- Slate.com
- The Nation
- Like it or not

written for themselves. Will Lady Gaga be so lucky?

YOUR TAGS: Add

TIP: 1.00 Tip! Enter the amount, and click "Tip" to submit!

SHARE: Email



Comments Post a comment

Ted,

Maybe I'll steal one of your 'poems' some time...

Nik Bronder  
blackhandproductions.com

 **Nik Bronder**  
JULY 08, 2009 03:11 PM

Well, Nik old pal, I understand your concern over protecting your intellectual property, but a simple comment here to ask me to remove the photo would have done the trick. I also would have apologized. But since you seem more prone to having snit-fits than being reasonable, I'll forgo the I'm sorrys. If you decide to "steal" one of my poems, as in claiming authorship, you will have a hard time getting away with it. Things you find of mine on the internet are dated, and you'd only appear foolish attaching your name to something I'd written. In any case, you're quotation marks around the word "poems" indicates that you think my poems very good. You've basically said that you're willing to attach your name to things you think are inferior. Ironic, and perhaps telling; maybe you have self esteem issues. All the more reason to avoid your blog. Have a nice day.

 **Ted Burke**  
JULY 08, 2009 03:38 PM

I wasn't expecting you to read my site just as I wasn't expecting you to take one of my photos directly from my site without leaving any kind of credit... or god forbid ask for permission.

At least you could have just copied the image instead of just leeching my bandwidth as well.

And I'm pretty sure I could copy and paste one of you poems just as simply as

 **Just a nice place**  
posted by: *John Leonard*

 **Yes. We. Can.**  
posted by: *karentempler*

you did one of my photographs.

 **Nik Bronder**  
JULY 08, 2009 04:27 PM

Well, I did read your site, Batman, and now I won't, and it's that simple, ain't it? What you expected is besides the point. You could have left me a note and I would have removed the offending use of your image. But you didn't, and preferred instead a snit fit. Fine. And yes, you could copy and paste one of my images, but that's not what I was talking about. You used the word "steal" in your supposition, indicating you'd take credit for it. My response was good luck trying to get away with it: I would embarrass you with proof that you appropriated it and had, in fact, plagiarized me. By that time the whole issue of he-did-it-first would be forgotten and you'd be come off seeming like a fool, as I said. Really, Nik, get over yourself, and don't threaten me with the "theft" my work. Bear in mind that I've made copies of your post here, and will trot them out, for future reference.

Have a nice day.

 **Ted Burke**  
JULY 08, 2009 04:40 PM

Ted,

Now you I'm not sure where you're going with this. I'm confused.

Proof?  
Batman?  
Get over myself?  
Threaten?

So your response would be similar to what I did, provide proof in fact, that you did plagiarize me.

I'm just glad that you see how hurtful it is some one suggests they might take your work and claim it as their own.

Now imagine if some one actually did that:  
<http://blackhandproductions.com/media/Picture1.png>

I'd rather you didn't "trot" out anything but whatever. I can make copies too.

I hope we all learned a valuable lesson today.

Nik Bronder  
blackhandproductions.com

 **Nik Bronder**  
JULY 08, 2009 05:24 PM

You're obtuse as well as being a snit fitter. Say good night, Nik.

 **Ted Burke**  
JULY 08, 2009 05:28 PM

Since you've gone ahead and posted about this on your blog, might you reciprocate and publish my response your post?  
C'mon, Nik, you're all about fair play, right? Print the response.

 **Ted Burke**  
JULY 08, 2009 07:23 PM

Ted,

Obtuse? Now I believe you've spent one too many Sundays watching Shawshank Redemption.

By all means, let's move this conversation to my site. I've already provided you with enough content on your site. It would be easier if you just commented on my post but I'll post your response (unedited) by morning.

A little credit goes a long way.

Nik Bronder  
blackhandproductions.com



*Nik Bronder*  
JULY 08, 2009 08:47 PM

Obtuse, yes. And I've never seen "Shawshank Redemption". I'll settle for you posting my response and then have done with it. You will satisfy yourself with the last word.

A little credit goes a long way, sure thing, but a subtle approach goes even further. But rather than request a deletion, you had a snit fit. Additionally threatening to "steal" some one's poem out of spite doesn't inspire contrition. You've merely wound up coming off like a jerk. So print my response, get your last digs in, and perhaps, just perhaps *grow up*.



*Ted Burke*  
JULY 08, 2009 10:58 PM

I guess threatening to steal will never be as bad as actually stealing:

<http://blackhandproductions.com/media/Picture1.png>

I will forever find it amusing that you are really shaken by the fact that I merely mentioned that maybe I would steal one of your poems yet you never really acknowledged the fact that you did indeed actually steal one of my photographs. I guess deep down inside you believe there is a difference...

No worries. I'll post all of these comments on my site verbatim tomorrow.

I hope you learned that stealing a photograph is the same as a plagiarized poem.



*Nik Bronder*  
JULY 09, 2009 01:04 AM