
FREDERICK SOMMER

Only Chance is Fair

1995

Art is the eloquence
of what things are

Elegance charms reality

The distance to reality
is the same everywhere

The art of Vermeer
must have been there
on the morning of creation

The wing of a bird is its structure to fly

A yawn is a stretch in the face of reality

When the time has come
to ask them to bury you
in a beautiful garden
if they cannot, fire them

The unwanted are lost to the world

Time finds a mistake
and we call it chance

Scholarship is voracious

The beat of the heart
is the clock that remembers

Show the camera what is to be seen
and it will show you what it looks like

Thomas Aquinas
stripped the muses of their freedom
to break a shadow in two

Musical notation is design

Photography is a step
the arts had to take
to touch all things

Nature served on a serviette

Life is allegorical
Every morning we arise
to a new balance of means

Images framing the Sistine ceiling
are masterpieces within a masterpiece

Art is an elegant combination of proportions
in weights and measures
and I am dedicated to their fragility at all times

Anyone could have created man
but God created Eve

Creation is so complex it must happen
when we are not looking

The new bible will be about balance and
equity

Only chance is fair