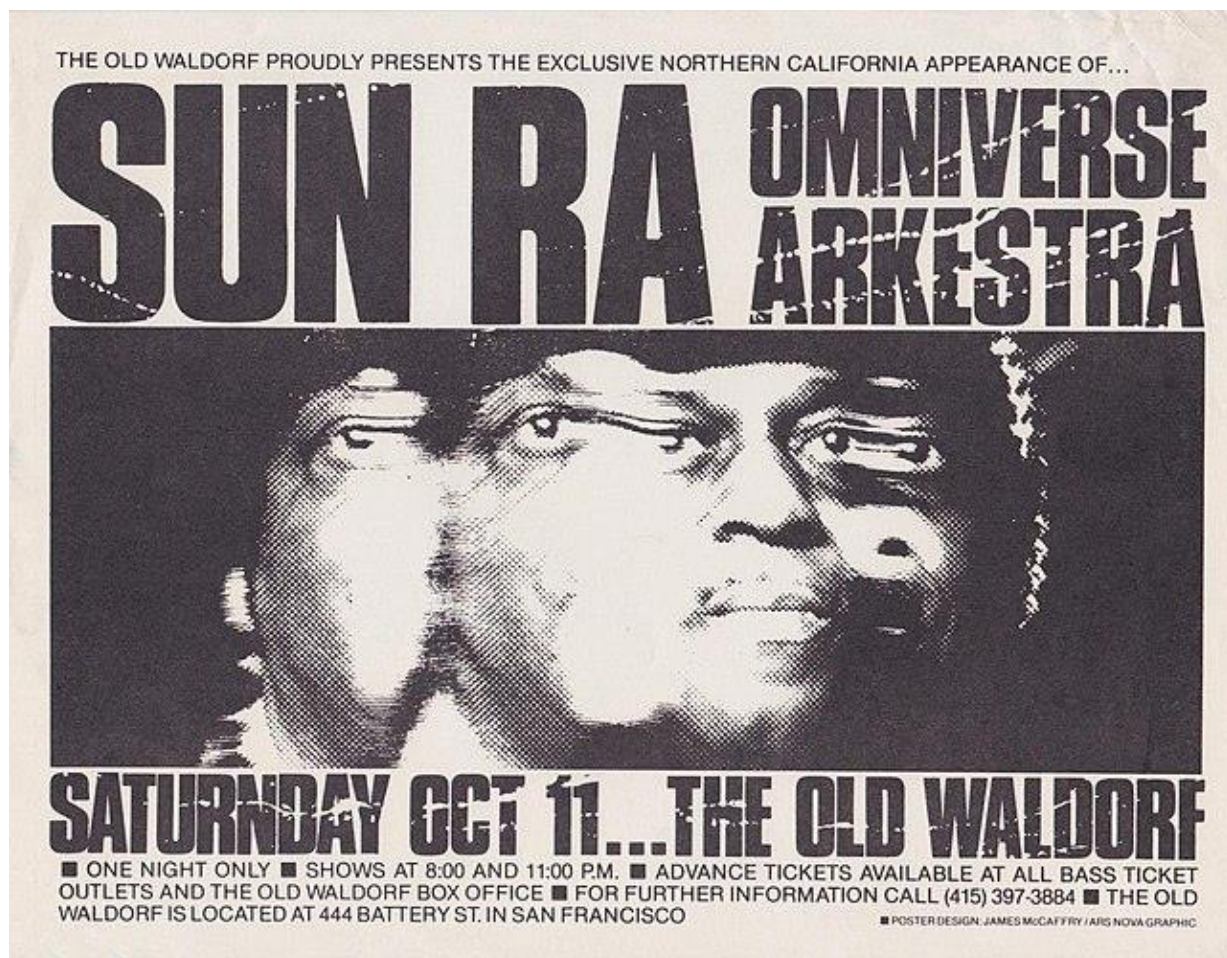


RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry
Skin

by Willa Schneberg



SUN RA OMNIVERSE ARKESTRA (1980 CONCERT POSTER, SAN FRANCISCO). WIKIMEDIA

Skin

A black woman loans me her skin.
It doesn't fit like a bodystocking
or wetsuit. It becomes mine,
sepia and smooth.

I notice a puncture
on the left side of my torso.
There is blood. My thumb
fits in the slit and finds muscle.

The Band-Aids are the wrong color
and too small.

I must do something:

smash the leg irons,
shoot the master,
cut down the lynching tree.

Now the woman is in the hallway
wearing her skin. She says,
don't worry yourself, you
got your own: inked numbers,
yellow star

always there;

this wound
is mine.



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