

MAKING NOISE, 2013

- Vilma Ginzberg

From Section I, Speak up!:

SILENCE REVISITED

(or: ode to my beloved country)

*if you can't say something nice,
don't say nothin' at all*

like the squatter morning glory vine
yielding pink and purple posies of promise
our bitter silence sends out relentless tendril roots
invading every corner of serenity's garden

silence is golden

rings of silence as daunting as barbed wire
imprison both sides

with shroud of silence
shall we cover the unflattering nakedness
of our outrage
while, masquerading as the cloak of civility,
our stillness, whether soft or steely,
is finally buried with us in mass graves of apathy
with no other companion
than our covenant of quiet?

make noise
make every day new year's eve,
clattering on the brink
of something hopeful

make noise
like the women taking back the night
like the bonus army insisting on their due
say your piece
like rachel carson martin luther king mahatma ghandi
pete seeger dmitri shostakovitch lenore kandel
mort sahl george carlin deep throat
project censored the wisconsin 14
like all the unnamed truth-tellers
like the canary in the coal-mine
sing as if your life depends on it