CARCINOMA

This old anatomical drawing shows a front and back view of a man's lymphatic system. Nodes are dark numbered circles, lines connect the nodes. You have cut out these two views into triangles,

and mounted them, tête-bêche, like a Jack of Hearts,

except that where the hearts should be you've painted in a pair of dice.

The card is above a body of dashed-line water.

To the left,

on a hummocked shore,

there appear to be several artillery batteries,

soldiers in black and white outlined Hussar dress.

One group is passing balls to be loaded.

In another, the powder fuse is lit by a bearded officer.

Some green grass has been painted in, and

you have drawn the trajectory

of a shot from one of these cannons

towards the card.

But it's going to fall short.

At top right, in a dark sky

there is a loupe projecting, as if

someone big, prismatic

were watching this scene.

The card is held above water by a woman.

She seems to be struggling in the sea,

though she holds the card steady.

She's small,

and it looks like you've xeroxed an old passport photo of yourself and used it as her face.

There is a dot of red,

the only warm color in this collage,

where one might imagine her heart would be.