



photo: Martin Beules

Who Am I?

How I've changed, how we've changed;  
 If you saw me now, would you recognize,  
 In this face, the image of the man  
 You knew once? Such energy,  
 such dreams were mine then;  
 I was an idealist, and the world  
 Was my playground and studio.  
 I established all the laws,  
 And set up kings and potentates,  
 Over the various philosophical lands I mapped.  
 But now its all gone; yet stay - will it not come again?  
 It is difficult to say,  
 But I must understand, touch, know something;  
 and I know many things,  
 I must have these objects around me now;  
 but I can't say, for I am so far away.  
 The character I so carefully built,  
 Where is he now? I seem to think  
 It was a fairy tale - a fiction - all a romance,  
 That I made up, in keeping with the  
 World that does such things.  
 So I made my fantasy,  
 And I made myself a character in that fantasy,  
 And the fantasy became life,  
 Life became a story,  
 And here I sit, thinking it's all unreal.  
 The ego I formed is an ego - a mere fiction;  
 the style I built mere characterization.  
 But is it all?  
 I yet think there is something permanent in it all.  
 Now I chose this, and leave the other  
 automatic choices, spontaneous likings,  
 These things suggest a real, unchanging yet evolving  
 being.  
 There is a real person underneath,  
 Did you see? Do I see?

Harry Lippert

Disgust in the Biology Cafeteria (A Grumpy Poem)

Sitting here looking at some dildo eating a donut  
 He's wincing and grimacing — you'd think he was  
 dying  
 Some cultured looking British idiot, probably on a  
 fellowship  
 In extremis over his fucking donut.

N. Todd

Follow The Spinning Cherry

We follow the spinning cherry  
 across a bridge (closed just for us)  
 to wet snow and speeches.

Hard look policemen with blank stares  
 legs positioned on sandstone stairs,  
 someone important said  
 no smiling.

Cuts suck Peter cuts so Peter sucks.  
 I see.

Speeches end:  
 Satisfied student leaders.  
 Hard look policeman smiles  
 to partner: Did you see that  
 dish in the front row?

I'm glad the rally had  
 such a major impact.

Norman Sacuta

Safety First

It's oh, so easy just to say  
 "Hi"  
 "Good morning"  
 "Lovely day"  
 Then sort the papers on my desk  
 In a calm, deliberate, businesslike way

The whole world works this way, it seems  
 Leave love  
 and other risky things to dreams  
 The open heart invites the knife  
 The nonchalant approach redeems

How sad and asinine to be  
 On guard for thee  
 On guard for thee

Just like a dumb Canuck  
 I stand on guard for thee

Jens Andersen

Now That 1 + 1 = 3

I grew up in the land  
 seeking the power beyond things,

The day the sun rose  
 And the water flowed  
 You said we were lucky

But coming back from the hills  
 I touched the cinders  
 You left in the living room

What they said and still say  
 I have been singing since yesterday  
 Perhaps this time the mermaids will come

They will take me for a walk in the desert  
 In this land of camels the minstrels will  
 Bring us rain from their eyes

I may have to cleanse these wasted years  
 In the waters of Mhuju  
 Like the believer I will cable my tears to Mecca

Shall this not be a prayer to the hanged man  
 A prayer for fear and fire?  
 Let the word die

II

Shall I give you a cigarette covered  
 in cassava leaves?  
 This leaf you see is from the one  
 who died at Midday

Take it and eat it  
 For he will never come this way again  
 Yes accept this broken egg sister

This street, sister, leads to the city  
 That man you see there, sister,  
 And the voices that rend the night  
 are neither them nor us

Across the street there is a nude being  
 Buying the sun with jewels  
 Beyond the road insects ululate around  
 incandescent lights

Then the dream walked passed us  
 Danced and left  
 Tomorrow some of them will be  
 Celebrating their salvation in  
 the womb of a hungry man

Now that the mosquito is kissing  
 Now that 1 + 1 = 3 we can laugh and die.

Hangson Msiska