

A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST

| 42 |

Dari 1000 orang yang kutanya, hanya satu yang setuju bahwa aku mirip Bruce Lee.

Des 04

| 42 |

Only one out of a thousand people who I asked agreed that I look like Bruce Lee.

Dec 04

| 51 |

Dua lembar baju, celana, 3 celana dalam, dan handuk kecil kumasukkan dalam tas. Lewat pintu belakang aku keluar, satpamku juga tertidur dekat dengan kurungan herder. Tetapi terlelap.

Anakku, istriku kalau mau ketemu dengan aku tontonlah sirkus keliling.

Des 04

| 51 |

I put two shirts, a pair of pants, three pieces of underwear and a small towel into my bag. I went out through the back door; my security guard was stationed near the German Shepherd dog cage. Both were fast asleep.

My son and wife, if you want to meet me, just come and watch the circus show.

Dec 04

| 49 |

Aku nongkrong lagi di wc. Matakku masih berkupu-kupu dan kepalaku berat, kutempelkan dahiku dilengan.

Bangsat! Jariku terselomot rokok.

Des 04

| 49 |

I squatted in the toilet. My eyes were still seeing butterflies and my head was heavy, I rested my forehead on my arm.

Shit! The cigarette burned my fingertip!

Dec 04

ON PAINTING

| 44 |

“Kapan listrik nyala?”

“Kira-kira... sepuluh menit yang lalu”

10 menit yang lalu. Buat tema atau judul lukisan bagus aku pikir. Lalu visualnya bagaimana yah, sebentar, pertama lampu mati, lalu nyala dalam 10 menit. Berarti, ...jarak, lampu mati sampai nyala lagi dengan waktu 10 menit, terus lampu mati kali lampu nyala dibagi 10, jadi. . . Kecepatan rata-rata....?

Des 04

| 44 |

“When did the electricity come back on?”

“Oh, about ten minutes ago.”

Ten minutes ago. It would be a good theme for a painting. But how would the visualization be? Wait a minute, first the electricity went dead, and then it was back on in ten minutes. That means.....interval, the light went off and back on again in ten minutes, and then the went-off frequency times the went-on frequency, and then divided by ten, so... the average velocity is.....?

Dec 04

| 66 |

Ada kanvas kosong, cat juga masih ada beberapa warna. Duduk, merokok, melukis apa ya? Semuanya sepertinya sudah pernah dilukis.

Habis 6 batang kretek belum juga kusentuh kuas.

Mandi sajalah.

Des 04

| 66 |

I had an empty canvas and several tubes of paint. I sat and smoked. What to paint? It seemed like I had already painted everything before. Six cigarettes later and I hadn't even touched the paintbrush.

I'd just take a bath.

Dec 04

ON TIME

| 34 |

Sepertinya baru saja adzan, kok sudah adzan lagi.

Des 04

| 34 |

I think I've just heard the adzan. How come I heard it again just now?

Dec 04

| 46 |

Koran pagi datang lagi, yang kemarin belum aku baca.

Des 04

| 46 |

The morning newspaper has arrived; I haven't even read yesterday's.

Dec 04

| 69 |

Aduh, jam setengah 11 masih lama banget.

Des 04

| 69 |

Damn, it's still a very long time to ten-thirty.

Dec 04

SURREAL LIFE

| 17 |

Dari pintu yang setengah terbuka, laki-laki tua bertopi seragam sekolah melintasi jalan berumput di depan rumahku. Setelah itu tidak terjadi apa apa.

Mei 04

| 17 |

From behind the half-opened door, an old guy wearing a school-uniform hat crossed the grassy road in front of my house. Nothing happened afterward.

May 04

| 21 |

Dasar aku memang klepto, aku di kamar kecil Kereta Api (*Train Urinoir*) dan aku mencuri papan yang tertulis "Pergunakanlah hanya waktu kereta jalan." Tidak berhasil karena pecah, bautnya terlalu kencang, BAJINGAN!!

Jun 04

| 21 |

I really am a kleptomaniac, I was in a Train Urinal, and I stole the sign that said, "Use only when the train is moving". I failed because it broke apart; the bolt was too tight, BASTARD!!

June 04

ON SEX AND FRIENDSHIP

| 5 |

Akhirnya kutiduri juga istrimu.

Mei. 04

| 5 |

I finally screwed your wife.

May 04

| 24 |

Ada SMS masuk:

"Go, aku kurang tidur semalam, gak bisa datang. Sorry, cape. er-ha-be masih 2 butir, besok aku bawa. u masih disitu kan? Aku ajak Cina satu, dia juga libur besok, punya ijo kok, don't worry, pasti sudah asik lu, aku juga sudah asik, ada sisa sedikit, tapi besok jangan minum ya, bojoku marah, pipiku juga jadi merah banget kalo minum, abis Cina sih, besok ada cewek gak? Usahain ya? Aku ngaceng nih, bosan sama istri. Tapi aku tidak ada uang bis. Jemput ya! Pulang nya diongkosi ya. Palakin toh si boss. sudah ya, pulsaku mepet."

Juni 04

| 24 |

Got an SMS:

"Go, I couldn't sleep last night. So I can't come, sorry I'm tired, I still have some r.h.b. left — two tablets, I'll bring them tomorrow, you're still there, right? I'll bring along a Chinese guy, he also has a day off tomorrow, got some weed, too, don't worry. I bet you're already high, me too, I have some left over, but let's not drink tomorrow, ok? My wife's pissed off, my cheeks get red when I drink, y'know me, Chinese, will there be some chicks tomorrow? Do

your best, ok? I'm so horny; I'm bored with my wife. But I have no money for the bus; pick me up, ok? And give me some money to go home, ok? Just rob the boss, that's all for now, ok? My phone pulsa's running out."

June 04

| 40 |

Aku rasa sekarang ejakulasi dini mulai menyerangku, nomer hp-nya dokter Boyke berapa yah?

Des 04

| 40 |

I have the feeling that I'm starting to suffer from premature ejaculation; what's Dr. Boyke's number?

Dec 04

| 68 |

Telpon berdering.

"Halo, siapa?"

"Selli mas!"

"Selli?!"

Bekas pacarku dulu sekali, waktu aku masih ingusan dan pemalu banget. Pegang jarinya saja sudah gemetar, ngomong juga jarang, jadi surat-suratan terus.

"Berapa anakmu sekarang Sell?"

"Dua mas, cewek-cowok"

"Suamimu dimana?"

Dia ngomong lagi ngebor minyak di Riau. Kami janji bertemu, dua hari lagi. Di tengah hujan lebat, di bawah beringi, kutiduri ia dalam mobilku.

Aku tidak pemalu lagi.

Des 04

| 68 |

The phone rang.

"Hello, who's speaking?"

"It's Selli!"

"Selli?!"

She was my girlfriend when I was still so young and shy. At that time, I even trembled from just holding her hand. We hardly ever talked to each other, but we kept on sending letters to each other.

"How many kids do you have now, Sell?"

"I have two, a girl and a boy."

"Where's your husband?"

She said her husband was drilling oil in Riau. We made a date to meet two days later. In the middle of heavy rain, under a banyan tree, I fucked her in my car.

I was no longer shy.

Dec 04

| 45 |

Tok tok tok..... Tok tok tok... tok tok... tok... tok... tok.... Tok tok tok... tok.... Tok tok tok tok....Tok!!!

Pulang saja. Aku yakin dia ada. Mungkin sedang mandi, mencuci, menjahit, punya lelaki baru, mungkin saja sedang mendandani gerendel pintu, mengganti cat kamarnya, bikin kliping, mencoba koleksi baju-bajunya, menanam pohon mangga di belakang, tapi pohon mangganya kan sudah ada sembilan, mau jadi petani mangga apa yah, masa mau dimakan sendiri.

Des 04

| 45 |

Knock, knock, knock.... Knock, knock, knock.... Knock, knock.... Knock, knock.... Knock, knock, knock.... Knock.... Knock.... Knock, knock, knock, knock.... KNOCK!!!

I'll just go home. I'm sure she's not around. Maybe she's taking a shower, washing clothes, sewing, spending time with her new man, or perhaps she's repairing her door bolt, changing her room's paint color, cutting out press clippings, trying on all her clothes, planting a mango tree in the backyard. . . . but she already has nine mango trees. Does she want to be a mango farmer or something? I can't believe she's going to eat all those mangoes by herself.

Dec 04

SURREAL DEATH

| 39 |

Anjing hitam tak tau apa yang harus dia perbuat ketika dilihat tuannya mencari-cari tali, mengikatnya di kusen pintu dan meletakkan kursi rendah di bawahnya.

Des 04

| 39 |

The black dog didn't know what to do when he saw his master looking for a piece of rope, then tied it over a doorframe and put a stool below it.

Dec 04

| 25 |

Koran pagi. Di perkebunan tebu seorang tentara yang wajahnya dikaburkan menindih kepala mayat tak berbaju dengan sepatu bootnya...

"Mie Gorengmu", seru istriku, kusantap langsung, sedapnya.

Nov 04

| 25 |

Morning paper. In the sugarcane field, I could just make out the shadowy form of a soldier stomping the head of a nude corpse with his boot....

"Your fried noodles!", my wife yelled, I ate it right away, yummy.

Nov 04

RANDOM THOUGHTS

| 55 |

Lagu kebangsaan kita panjang banget ya.

Des 04

| 55 |

Our national anthem is so damn long, right?

Dec 04

| 13 |

Kukira dulu Muhammad Ali orang Indonesia.

Maret 04

| 13 |

I thought Muhammad Ali was Indonesian.

March 04

| 33 |

Korek api sekarang cepat sekali matinya. Untuk satu batang rokok butuh paling tidak 5 - 6 batang.

Des 04

| 33 |

Matches are so easily badly made these days. To light a cigarette, we need at least five or six of them.

Dec 04

| 35 |

Nahkodanya kapal Nuh terlalu banyak minum Rum. Sebuah ombak besar datang menghantam dan langsung tenggelam. Nabi Nuh tidak bisa berenang dan semua binatang yang dikumpulkannya mati. Hanya sepasang Gagak yang sempat menyelamatkan diri.

Mereka terbang dan mencari sarang. Beranak pinak, anak cucunya ada yang kawin sama ikan, gurita, kerang, ubur-ubur, penyu, dan kitalah keturunannya.

Des 04

| 35 |

The captain of Noah's Ark drank too much rum. A huge wave came crashing towards the ship and sank it down immediately. Noah couldn't swim and all the animals on the Ark were killed. It was only a pair of crows that had enough time to escape.

They flew and looked for a nesting place. Then they bred; some of their children and grandchildren married fish, octopus, oysters, jellyfish, turtles, and we are their descendants.

Dec 04

ON WRITING

| 36 |

Saking mabuknya, aku baca puisi!

Des 04

| 36 |

I got so drunk I read poems!

Dec 04

| 54 |

Well, let's write a poem:

.... Fuck it, I can't.

Dec 04

| 54 |

Coba nulis puisi ah:
...setan, nggak bisa.

Des 04

| 79 |

Selama 5 generasi, keluarga itu menjalankan bisnis mencetak batu bata. Hanya satu orang yang menjadi pegawai PLN, dan membangun rumahnya sendiri. Lainnya tumpang dalam rumah besar kuno yang kokoh itu.

(sepertinya cerita ini akan panjang, lebih baik kalau dicukupkan sampai disini saja).

21-9-2005

| 79 |

For five generations that family has been running their business: brick molding. There was only one of them who worked as an employee in the electricity company and built his own house. The others were crowded into that big, old, strong house.

(It feels like this story is going to be long, I think it's better to end it right here)

September 21, 2005