

***And Next to this (Kuala Lumpur)***

The Jalan Scott Condominiums are the mountains on the periphery, shadowing a neighborhood valley below.

From this position distance is measured. 27 floors.

Inside, a fake rose plant, a ceramic white poodle, a bottle of *Charm* perfume, a package of knee-highs--never opened.

In the creases of the chair, a flattened Marlboro cigarette.

To the right, the Petronas twin towers, the world's tallest buildings, built on some of the lowest lands. Some say that this dampens the effect.

Inside, Van Gogh prints hang in the rooms.

Behind the towers is the community center park bisected by a stream of water so clean as if made of glass. A man wades in it, in a straw hat, skimming the water with a net, everyday at 3 pm.

3 p.m.

Because the international dateline has been crossed and 23 measurable hours becomes 2 days.

3 a.m. your time.

Many of the functions of the human body are regulated by internal 24 hour cycles. Jet lag is experienced when a person travels by air across more than three time zones. When we travel long distances rapidly our bodies take time to adjust to the new time of our destination. And when the date line is crossed there is a lapse between times, or a lapse between keeping time in relationship to home.

The decision. We can flex a finger at a moment of one's choosing but the brain's activity can be measured a half a second before the decision is made.

There are lapses between the beginning of a body event, and its completion--in an active outward direction.

So every day at 3pm, skimming the water with a net.

The park was built with certain laws: one of those being no touching between genders. The couple lost their lawsuit. But recording each other, and the surroundings, is the common custom. We are all alike in this desire to have witnesses to our lives.

Travel is characterized by the suspension of bodies in relation to a landscape. Like the view from this window.

Ampang park. A couple fighting outside a car door left open. He bangs her head against the iron gate of the house. Her headscarf is ripped off. Her hair flies in all directions.

So everyday at 3pm, skimming the water with a net,  
The cover of the *Good Earth*. All of this Superimposed over this metropolis

The Jalan Scott condominiums are the mountains on the periphery,  
shadowing a neighborhood valley below. From this position distance is measured.

Inside, the rooms are wallpapered like a tissue box. The air conditioning is controlled by  
a remote with buttons such as “too warm” and “too cool.” One small tear in the  
wallpaper.

In the middle of this highway, on an elevated piece of grass, the first bombs of World  
War Two were dropped. The holes in the grass are from the removal of the monument  
that once marked the event.

The city prison, a penitentiary for drug offenders, a residual colonial law dating back to  
the opium wars. And next to this, Times Square Mall houses the largest indoor  
amusement park in Asia. There are other half-built interiors spread across this city. The  
world’s first covered city was to be big enough to fit 40 football fields—an all weather, one  
stop destination, for business and leisure.

These two paths, within a one-block radius of each other.

Travel is characterized by the suspension of bodies in relation to the view of 27 floors.

Independence Square. The flag twisted from the wind.  
Caption: literally meaning a headline underneath.

And when the dateline is crossed there is a gap between keeping time  
in relationship to home.

Caption: the Malaysian flag, the superimposition of one system  
over another.

The old city’s architecture, built to impersonate buildings seen on expeditions to the  
Middle East in order make this city seem more Arabic. The imposition of what should be  
over what was. Who walks through these corridors to play out the impersonation? Not  
indigenous to these parts but thrives here nevertheless.

These superimpositions, this placing something on or over something else, with the  
result that both things appear simultaneously, although one may partially obscure the  
other. We wield our knowledge—or lack of—to what we are presented with in the world,  
in order to create meaning. These impermanent understandings, attached to what we  
are presented with that are beyond our control. Beyond our control but within our powers  
of recognition. Our mimetic capabilities.

Jalan scott condominiums, the 27th floor.

He loved this one the best because he had seen her do that a thousand times.  
And next to this, a painting of a woman drowning, two men in a boat look on. It was a  
noted failure but not one they cared to react to.

This generous gift, erected to commemorate Lord Butterworth's visit.

1663, Pinto's Travels. The first English use of the Malaysian word *amok*.  
There are some of them who go out into the streets and kill as many persons as they meet. Thus the running amok is a peculiar form of human insanity.

Amok is defined as engaging furiously in battle, attacking with desperate resolution, rushing in a state of frenzy to the commission of indiscriminate murder. Applied to any animal in the state of vicious rage. A name for a frenzied Malay. Used very rarely with any verb but to run.

"I might have run amok against society but I preferred that society should run amok against me."  
1863 Thoreau

She could not see the earth as in the old days, cracked and loose and turning a thousand miles an hour. The earth now was enormous and still and flat.  
But the world has never been an object that stands before us, and can be seen.

Everyday at 3pm, skimming the water with a net, The cover of the *Good Earth*. All of this Superimposed over this metropolis.