

13 LINES AND 13 DAYS IN OZ

EXCERPTS DECEMBER 11-23, 2010

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Hair, 2002, was a video poem in collaboration with Hiromi Goto

1 The challenge of this poetic diary was to write daily (or write
2 about daily) to document the experiences of a short visit
3 through vancouver-sydney-wollongong-canberra, with
4 transit stops along the way. Here, cities merged with
5 experiences, travel through became travel over, and the
6 global merged, as it often does, with the local in heart and
7 spirit. Included here are excerpts from Oprah's visit to
8 Sydney, the tragic deaths of asylum seekers as their boat
9 crashed on rocks off Christmas Island, observations at
10 the Aboriginal tent embassy that has been placed near the
11 Australian parliament for more than three decades, and the
12 curiosities of multinationals in clash and contrast with
13 multiplicities of species, human and otherwise.



1 O
2 zone high above blue sky circles round and comes back down
3 oprah house grand ol op re:
4 spotting, someone says she's wearing yellow pants and
5 in uniform a hundred camera phones eye the motorcade
6 for a glimpse of what happens when fifteen minutes of fame
7 goes viral
8 high above the spectators expectorate sighs of glory
9 become known for their following
10 metawatching and everyone's a legend in their own
11 mind the gap between
12 fiction and reality the only difference that
13 we can't control more than one of them. at a time

1 tent embassy
2 the letters of sovereignty spread across a lawn
3 a lone fella shovelling dirt to make a campfire
4 and all around the heat and cameras of the global eye
5 this is the way the day ends
6 tents and art and ideas circulating
7 but this is different as the dust settles and
8 the talks begin
9 land is life
10 under a purple sun and a bluegreen sky
11 this is the way the world begins
12 aesthetics cropping into the dusk of dues
13 the turning of sound into night

1 the papers reeling with reports of deaths off
2 christmas island and the stories of waves rolling over bodies and the
3 question of what value the life of a refugee
4 rainclouds burst on the parade and birdsong reigns
5 there is talk of family and futures as the inner crevasses
6 of body turn bitter and then outbreak into sweet
7 the world does not end on this moment but it does
8 slow down on its axis
9 and the stone sky cracks open to slit in sunlight
10 to touch brown skin and warm the breath
11 the circles ever filling with distance run
12 round round we go thinking of
13 land that we live on

1 who put the south in melbourne asian?
2 searching for wireless and finding coffee and signal at the
3 oh so anglo gloria jeans the corner of collins and spencer
4 then in the midst the mist of india a dapper middle-aged
5 cleric pushing a pram with daughter and wife in tow and
6 another young woman (wife's sister?) decked out and looking
7 southasian beautiful and then in walks a gawky 20something
8 also-southasian clutching a bberry and looking awkward
9 shakes hands with dapper cleric and shakes hands
10 nonchalance with southasian beautiful and coffees ordered
11 and the family at the counter and gawk and beautiful in
12 discomited silence the small talk til family leaves, just
13 the two of them Arranged meeting, dateline mel.