

# IN TRANSIT

>> LYDIA KWA AND JASON SIMS

For this project, I visited several thrift shops in Vancouver to take snapshots; later on, I responded to the images with poems inspired by the Japanese tanka form. I wanted to comment on the transient nature of materiality, especially our bodies and relationships with others.

My initial contribution to *Spatial Poetics* was *Dying to Dress*, the 2007 video poem collaboration with Jason Sims. <http://vimeo.com/21083844>

Superstition surrounds the number 4 in Chinese culture, since the way it's pronounced is the same as the word for death! When Lydia turned 44, she decided to have a bit of fun with her cultural anxiety; she dressed up every night for one week and took photos of herself, spoofing the fashion industry with a few off-the-runway poses. She likes dressing up, especially for her own entertainment. *Dying to Dress* is a video poem that riffs on those images; it explores getting old, growing youthful in spirit, and remaining playful while being philosophical.



all lined up to go  
better believe it's final  
I'm serious, no joke  
raring to bolt off the rack  
commit or you'll be sorry



before you lash out  
why not that promised caress?  
watch your pride, you fool  
close-circuit's tracking your rage  
posting videos on Vimeo



dumped the loser groom  
somewhere on Route 66  
how she lost her mind  
and hitchhiked for six long months  
singing her way off the map



itchy taffeta  
gowns ghosting Salvation's edge  
the party's over  
but wait 'til no one's watching  
and we'll twirl and waltz for you

#### END NOTES

Thanks to Jason Sims for post-production rendering of the images into Black-and-Whites.

The following snapshots were taken at (in order of appearance):

Salvation Army, 2714 West Broadway

St. Vincent de Paul, 2743 Main Street

VGH Thrift Shop, 120 East Broadway

Salvation Army, 210-296 East 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue