

POEMS AND DRAWINGS

Jonas-Sébastien Beaudry¹

Introduction

I enjoy drawing and writing poetry in my spare time. I have selected three drawings and three poems that somewhat reflect emotions and ideas I have had in relation to the current pandemic and how it affects our personal lives.

The poems explore different ways of dealing with cataclysms or unavoidable ruptures of routines and personal relationships: running away, being patient, self-help. The overall tone is not particularly optimistic. For instance, in “Guide to Purpose”, I parody self-help literature, perhaps questioning its limitations.

The collages juxtapose playful or comforting subjects (a cat, an amusement park, a family dinner) with otherworldly invasions. Familiar settings, pets, gatherings, food all become threats. For instance, in “The Family Dinner”, the family meal, a lobster, towers above Prague’s Old Jewish Cemetery, surrounded by a Norman Rockwell family, whose endeavour to be normal in these circumstances is not very much less uncanny than the monster itself.

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My Dream

When the flood came
the giant knew he wouldn't fit in
he never had – and yet he
carried in his hairy hands
many to the safety
of warm houses and safer lands

When the flood came
barricaded in sinking cars
drowned fathers drove
swaddled passengers by the cove
running away feet set in tar

So, the flood came.

We never thought it would come here
from the highest branch, my cat saw
the zoo of dignity and fear
break out like the walls of our law
and wild giraffes
bleat, cry and laugh
in streets made of paper and glass
from Madrid to Warsaw

The Fog

I sit in the fog
with you

I want to be here.

It is a little scary
the way fog interrupts
time and interrupts space
but it doesn't need
to interrupt us

the sound of teacups
and hiccups and beer
would travel even through milk

I'll be back
soon, rejoice
you could not be alone if you tried

I dream of a summer day

if the fog ever rolled out
from the feathers you hide in your pillow
you would find it at your feet
the thing you believed
was far away and out of reach
sleeping like a newborn sparrow

Guide to Purpose

Sit

down. Make a list of seven activities you enjoy. If this proves difficult, search for "fun things to do" on the Internet. You will be surprised at how many things people find fun. If you do not have the Internet, ask your friends for a piece of yarn. If you have no friends, call your mother. If she is on a safari, buy a puzzle. Sort pieces by colour until you feel pleasure.

List as many goals as you can.

I want: To stay in bed

I want: To be reincarnated

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Make sure your goals are gender-specific.

I want: To be reincarnated as Central Park

Stay two meters away

from people above your social class and aneurisms.

Write poetry

"If you were a lake
I'd never want to breathe air again"

Don't quit your day job. Buy

a cat. Name it after a shortage
of canned goods. Prepare 51 gallons of fish stock. Survive the war. If there
is no war, consider pretending.

Be aware of mental health stressors:

Absence of people
People
Everything that is not purple

Brainstorm solutions:

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The Giant Blue Cat



The Fair

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The Family Dinner



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