

# Perceived Distance From Impact

Kamden Hilliard



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# Notes from the Port, Anthropological Thots: Catalogue in Twelve

coming to a municipality near me: that tofu stink, again— hot pepper  
and rot to ghost my nose awash in silent waves,  
as DeLillo might note: *the language of radiation*  
*how the dead speak to the living where we wait together*  
*our carts stocked*

*with brightly colored goods.*

and *it's not racist*, coworker says,

'neath the street market's bloody light. *it's not racist*  
*to call it stinky tofu, 'cause it's stinky,* but oh how?

how with the metro / tube / transport machines? how with the laws,  
not quite opaque enough? how with the racisms? and of all  
these aberrations, how is racist, for sure racist? oh, HK,

pull your eyes from my velcro folds 'cause i'm loud af. feelin' pretty  
kill the master and marry his strife.  
i'm rife with desire: McDonald's, the boy back home, an anonymous scheme.

~~~XXX~~~



~~~XXX~~~

*an isotonic rehydration sport drink launched in Hong Kong  
in 2011.. .specially formulated for those who enjoy a healthy  
and active lifestyle, suitable for. . .hot weather or sweating occasions.*

—Coca-Cola corp.

quick as a speeding bullet, my gullet poached with steam:  
Aquarius! here to ply my wet dream. nine hunnit and twenty  
milliliters of hydraulic lubrication and *Coca Cola* product to rock  
my western ass to sleep. crampless, campless the woes  
of my white whine and deedless hands. Ms. Bishop knows:  
travel is a needy needy boy, but there's always you, Aquarius.  
kissing on my ethnic boobos, my vegetarian barracuda,  
my constant reminder of capitalism [like cigarette smoke  
caught in cotton]. Hong Kong we poppin' bottles of Aquarius,  
ticking through the streets we bombed out hilarious. the point  
is product and ain't you one sharp ass star, aqua love?  
quick prick in the dry mouth of sky. eleven pins popping  
the Tumblr under my tongue all blue tasting, thank you thank you,  
thou art a minor-love god all hydrating and completely recyclable.

~~~XXX~~~

my Tinder love Hong Kong and takes adoration with a limewedge.  
my Tinder don't leggo this eggo-tistical situation for anyone [not even  
the white woman who claims i have *yellow fever* which is def racist].

so we go out, we get fucked up, we get up an alleyway, and suddenly  
it's three gorgeous Scottish dudes buying us drank outside / dripdry thirsty  
under the night's colander of light! until he's not that gorgeous  
'cause now he's asking if my dick is a *big organic black dick?* so  
my drunk tongue snorts, *i'd rather be the kind of person that has yellow fever  
than the kind that answers you with want.*

revision: totes madeout with him and the two other imports [drastically improves  
my boybat average]. don't tell Momdad or my friends. also the co-  
workers aren't *that* racist but i have points to make, baskets to drain.  
they deserve it anyway. sum way. Aerosmith can *walk this way, talk this way*—  
even use the colorless [white] water fountain, stroll that club-invite-in skin.  
getting me weeded, got my whole spot fucked up and poorly seeded.

~~~XXX~~~



Kamden Hilliard reads for *Gigantic Sequins*, edits *Jellyfish Magazine*, and goes by Kam. They got love from The NFAA, The Ucross Foundation, VSC, Lambda Literary, and Callaloo. The author of two chapbooks, *Distress Tolerance* (Magic Helicopter Press, 2016) and *Perceived Distance from Impact* (Black Lawrence Press, 2017), Kam stays busy. Find their poems and essays in *The Black Warrior Review*, *West Branch*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Hawaii Review*, and other sunspots.