

Bard College Bard Digital Commons

Robert Kelly Manuscripts

Robert Kelly Archive

3-2012

marE2012

Robert Kelly Bard College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/rk_manuscripts

Recommended Citation

Kelly, Robert, "marE2012" (2012). *Robert Kelly Manuscripts*. 193. https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/rk_manuscripts/193

This Manuscript is brought to you for free and open access by the Robert Kelly Archive at Bard Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Robert Kelly Manuscripts by an authorized administrator of Bard Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@bard.edu.



9:58

They're coming to work now work is waiting for their cars they hurry to the dragon's gorge to placate him all day long

in hopes to flee at evening back to the workless world again. How did we get to live this way? How do we belong to someone else?

Walking the no dog I leave it to you in me to find the path. The woods are the same everywhere. Never the same. You know. You are in me, you lead me along. To you. Where else would I be going?

Just enough ink left for me and my friends to get it said before the sun comes up or goes down or whatever things do outside us almost touching together miles apart as usual until the right time comes when all things will take their cue from us and just stay put time just a quiet dog at our feet.

That a cast of dust fell down and knew me read slow, ye archers of the night, and aim askew your infatuated darts my safety is to mean you.

Say: Everything that happens I accept. I am the cause and the effect, the crime and the punishment. Nothing comes to me but what I own. Or owe. Or what I need.

Things that are alive but listen.

Then it gets colder.

Then the night sets in.

I have set you moving the bus goes through the trees you abandon everything just to be you.

The wind made it happen. The sun fell everything has happened before and is terribly new.

But listen, I read a book with you in it. It was the end of me because I was in it too.

Give me something to start another day with now at the end of it a knob of night to wrench open dream and let me in out into dawn door to rescue another one. The river of self deceiving flows as what-I-know, the think I think is me. Night knows better, speaks languages I don't know ancient and modern and even one soft tongue yet to come,

She rode into the mountains and slept in a tree all safe because she was homosexual

and the tree knew it slept on a branch panther outstretched woke clear of illusions

there are no mistakes anymore.

Tell the story without the people tell what the trees knew when they danced

tell what the moon saw with his old eye tell what lasts a hundred thousand years.

Erasing old e-mails till there's nothing but memory then not even that

but the words stay somehow into the world, a word once spoken never is silent,

it changes the air around us, our weather comes from everything we forget.

15 March 2012

In deserts people have such good memories that they have no weather at all.

A natural pause before entering the gate they are there before you

the kings and all their queens bored as flowers in a knot-garden wait for you to change them

only you can the world is imperfect with longing

but you, you scatter color wherever you go, I'm coaxing you to come in,

make it different just coming through the door's enough, entering changes everything.

I don't mean to be mysterious but there's a rubber band in my pocket and a hawk overhead. Try to understand. I'm all alone.

So I thought love meant love and love you meant me and when we are somewhere it is us all round us till we sleep but that was taking words as if they marched personless out of the wordbook I clutched them to me but felt only my own arms.

ARIA

Can we understand what she's saying when she's only singing, the syllables come from words but are not words

they are colors spattered on the ceiling of the mind maybe, they are what you forgot you meant before you began to feel

and what is feeling but a boat forever leaving and you never get to the dock in time and have to watch it through your tears

drift away with insolent slowness why does it take so long to reach the sky and you barely remember who you are.

Orpiment at least a name a native element. And ego is the me of me, the rest (that holds you or you hold) is the ore. We are mountains to one another.

DELACROIX

How flat the head of his tiger biting into the haunch of the horse always the haunch, they know where the fire's stored, they're always trying to turn fire-orange all over to be one single flame of meat dangerous in dark trees. The flatness of the head is scary, a snake head, or as if the lower jaw is on the far side of the world and all of us are in the tiger's mouth. Poor mare. Poor stallion. Strong as we are, he is more voluptuous than we are, his love more focused, his reason keener to understand us profoundly with his teeth.

Can it really be you born again for me to be my part-time river my Brazil?

Can the Touch

live without the skin and come down later to be wielded mind between mind?

Is it you? I thought I saw you writing on the wall and then again you tumbled on the lawn and then I knew I really knew. But what did I know? And who am I to think I know it?

IN BROOKLYN

Big deal we'd say on b-days, everybody gets born what makes you special? Did you change the world by coming into it? And we'd be sneerily silent but each of us hoping the answer was yes.

A cool rainy day said to an old Celtic soul remember when we were wet together and died and got born a thousand times and you were a salmon and I was your pond and over us both a wise trees spread grey branches with new fruit?

Is it time for me yet, is it mother? It is material, my fetish, and each thing particular. I admit it I'm a fetishist of matter, just be there and I'm excited. Once I met a matter and a mother in one moment, because we stood on simple wood they all belonged to me. Now carry my raptures out into the actual and make everything speak.