A Fever Dream in the Arctic

Kevin Kelly

An image kept recurring.

That shifted slightly each return.

A kind of fade.

Blend.

From one version to the next.

A cell began to split.
Within that moment,
I wondered if it was one, two or three?

The lock on the door never quite turned right. It was a new version of an old model.

Pull your head up from the microscope.

Re-orient your vision.

What does it look like, now, through the drone.

They said the Nobel Laureate can rest now.

UNDER CONTRACT:

Be weary of throwing the flame into the crowd of senior citizens who appear suspect of high crimes.

We were damned from the beginning, the old saying goes and kept going.

That man just keeps perpetuating an old truth.

In his heart he was Marxist. He knew the rich studied him, but left out

the 'kindness towards others' thing.

They consumed, the grapes of wrath, easily.

Analysis or Experience? Which do you prefer?

"I can't tell, all the trees look the same."

The mirror dissolved into the similar.

Feel the stone, it's the hardest truth.

Come up for air, your friends are waiting for you on the pier.

"Law is law, as solid as the ground" were the judge's final words.

The motion of minute pebbles shifted due to the weight of a solid mass.

It's hard science, matter of fact.

Solid for now. He took the job as a quantum mechanic. Nickel a day.

It's for your well being to have friends who are old, and old friends.

You can see how they shift, fade and blend.

From one version to the next.

Many forms of love have existed over time. That's why we're here in the present.

Calculate the whole of human history.

Try to imagine the actual force and excruciating loudness of 'The Big Bang'.

Apart from its stupid name.

Transcribe the whistle.

As it bends around objects, From mouth to ears.

Into night.

Besides a stark black ocean void in an open black sky void.

Compare the difference in hue as frost breeze hits your face.

A digital image of it is kind of close. It will help for now. As a desktop background.

As explained theoretically, or metaphorically? Which do you trust more?

A kind of standardized test. A critique. Finally, we can measure life.

A friend's ashes blew through my hands and into the wind.

The feeling of materiality.

The camera, from the beginning, rapidly went in and out of focus. Didn't know what to look for.

The main sail and the jib shot up the mast into the sky then into the sea.

A harmonious game of angles.

Waiting for the plot twist.

While seeking non-institutional validation. 'Arte Povera' uttered by the Italian middle aged art handler, Fabrizio.

"Poor art, he's the richest 'poor artist."

His eyes gleamed, like a sad 8-bit animated GIF, with two gold coins rotating 360 degrees in front of his eyes.

A double meaning where one negates the other.

Unfortunately, one is closer to a certain meaning of the term.

Power of metaphor, I guess. A hard truth.

Everybody loves Boo Radley.

Monroe as a character said,
"You care less and less about living when you get older."

by hiding in her bedroom for her final days.

Try to see what lies beyond the image that is well seen.

That transfers

from physical to
print to
film rapidly projected
into the minds
of the audience
to digital, swiped from
screen to
social network back
to the minds that walk
through the local museum.

While that pervades, it is harder to research, into the heart of the person.

Who performs a social role. Whose image is readily available, to transfer.

Or, co-opt.

Or, inspire.

I have a dream!

"I have a dream!"

As the same ancient cloud passes by.

I don't know what to do, they just keep spitting on his grave. Hard truth. Beauty knows no ethics.

The philosophers figured it out long ago.

That there is just an end to the mind, body and soul.

The body, composed of soft, hard, liquid.

Three contradictions in one.

What's left of the back end of that comet?

Cut to black.

Fade to black.

Those worn dance party bodies,
drunken stares,
at the midnight bar
while
Fleetwood Mac's 'Dreams'
came on. An infinity of reflected lights
rotating at the speed
of heavenly bodies.

These kinds of cheap things make the heart in everyone begin to ache.

Less art, more candy! Joey, the Berkeley radical sprawled on the wall.

Don't forget, please remember, the old protest sign in the secondhand shop read: MLK was radical before he became institutionalized.

About time he existed on the \$100 bill.

Emphasis on the

Focus on the

Push the fucking product.

He felt more like the son of a grandmother, who had that 40's charm.

> But was like a student from Columbia who get's all D's.

A, whatever, guy. Whatever guy.

Alright, Let that waterboarding victim go.

New law. New consciousness.

He was not quite.

But he was kind of.

Those old Connecticut
Conceptualists. Still
worrying about the problems
of their day.

At some point, 80's Michael decided not to come back for the Jackson 5 reunion tour.

That angelic combination of what a man (pleasant smile) can be.

HOLD IT.

Scarier than an officer holding you at gunpoint in a graveyard, in those deep woods in Maine.

Start to read things by their essences, as opposed to their definitions and appearances. I have an avant garde faith in the younger generation.

That DaDa spirit, they used to say.

When does the new become antiquated?

Dear Ancestor,

If only you could meet me.

Some version of yourself.

A different temporality.

How would you text, on those 'little boxes'?

Where is the artificial in realism?

That Modigliani still hung in the war torn castle.

It's context made it more beautiful.

The female nude amongst the Italian bullet laden architecture.

The fragility of both bodies.

Candice, I can only remember her, in a olive green one piece swim suit in sixth grade suburban summer camp. With dark long hair and freckles, learning to swim with me.

I mix her up sometimes
with a music video
from childhood,
Mariah Carey's
'You Will Always Be My Baby',
in which a boy
and girl sneak out
of camp in the middle
of a warm
summer night, to swim
and have a kiss
underwater.

Lovely, how memory and truth can blend the most real and cliché things sometimes...

The moving image coupled with the imagination.

What exactly do those historical re-enactments do for the society of the spectacle?

How will our re-enactments look, at what level

of spectacle?

Who's even paying to pay attention to them?

The President
started giving televised
seminars on truths
spoken by radical bi-partisan
thinkers.
In an attempt
to educate the public.
People were surprised
by old ideas.

Who knows if it worked.

The new regime erased everything, by instilling the new ambiguity.

How do we see fascism exist within capitalism?

Give me a subtle, ephemeral, example.

Now, forget about it.
You are getting emotional.
I'll drop the cynicism,
you drop the anger,
in an effort to communicate.

from across the bridge.

Strange,
how every
thing has an affect
that impresses
upon you
in degrees
you can not even comprehend.

Every, body, can, affect degrees of power.

The talking mechanism.

Don't worry, the earth will erase the atrocity.

Levi Strauss even says, "Every word can contain a myth."

But the man was known as an extreme liar.

In some circles.

A schizo who kept it cool. But cried at night.

Sometimes you and I can relate.

This band of curators add up all the various artistic gestures, as proofs.

Theorems.

While that band, add up dollars, which prove their value.

This is an old dualism.

Who knows who is more right?

Or more genuine.

A new unimaginable, on the news, everyday.

Bay of pigs, almost saw it. For that generation.

I wanted to grow up to be an explorer.

The genuine teacher made it clear that profession had been long outdated, but a likeness, is found

when all landscape has been seen, documented and digitized, but can be experienced through poetics.

I love that man.

Or woman.

It doesn't matter because this is just fiction. No, it's just a comedy.

In the Dutch translation it was 'Joy and Sadness'.

In the Latin translation it was 'Pleasure and Pain'.

Which do you prefer?

I prefer not to.

Which is another position.

The artwork is the only thing that remains not de-mystified.

He wasn't talking about Cageian 'chance operations',

He was talking about serendipity.

One of the great enigmas.

That's besides the point.

Working with her, it was like ontological boot camp.

See the lives of things outside our control.

What is the rate that your hair grows?

Add the suffix -ity.

Exteriority.

Forced performance.

Every, Day.

Begin to count
the leaves on
the grown tree,
by alternating
between top and bottom,
side and side.

1.

4392.

Uh, whatever, some kind of multitude.

What, so what, I don't exploit people like...

Some emperors did, some fiery southern racists did, some brothers in the black panthers did, or my emotionless drug addicted brother did to his loving grandmother.

The sons
of sons
of sons
of sons
of sons
of sons
say the south will rise again...

Can't get over
the idea of hurt
their
great

It could be ended, if people decided to forgive tradition, with a mutual respect

for peace in the present.

"Reset, refresh, power-up the computer-figure!" said a vision of John Lennon in all white.

Jokes aside, the new strategy was through subtle direct actions of kindness.

We were walking back home,
worn out,
from that brawl at dusk on the train tracks,
with the Barnum and Bailey
circus folk.

The thing was that sounds literary or movie-like and absurd.

But the reality
of the situation
was the aggravated assault
was started by the train
conductor, who thought a friend,
crossed the line at the bbq,
when someone pulled his pants
down and there were kids
around.

Who knows who was in the wrong.

Squeeze tight the stuffed animal.

Or, remember the comfort that it gave you.

She said the video artwork was mesmerizing and enchanting.

Only for a tall viewer.

The metaphysics of those white gallery walls...

Yes, that, is, what, this, means.

Explain?

Express?

That's right.
As paralyzing
nothingness
seen by that dead trout
in the old Dutch still life,
in the new McDonalds.

Somehow, it still had an aura.

So let that summer mixture of cool hot ocean breeze make you feel alive in the present.

He was hyper-aware. She was hyper-critical.

Somehow, it was too much,

to put it simply.

"Which frame and plane is the artist working with?" asked by the 3rd grade visionary art critic.

"Connects to that history and morphology of that idea."

Some version that makes it valid because new truths mutate.

A kind of affect of a Droste effect.

Fade, Fade, Fade,

I wouldn't fetishize it too much. You gotta move on with your life.

If only our forefathers
could see the kind of double
bind shit the constitution
has put us in,
in some situations,
while allowing
for ultimate freedom
in others.

Jefferson writing
"All men are created equal."
while his
beloved slave
warmed up a cup of tea
for him.

"Politics, is more of an art than a science." said the slave.

Or was it Hegel... I don't know, I'm confused!

Sorry, it is set in stone.

Law is law, as solid as

Terra firma.- Roman law.

Yea, that's damn right
I sent my kid to public school,
so he can learn how to tolerate
the other.

It was interesting. That was the most anyone could say.

That was the most one could hope for. What is the value of that?

Are you an artist?

or a post-modern con-artist?

Hopefully, the latter.

Eh, he made a couple good works in his lifetime for the time being.

Clever.

The layers unfolded as such:

Quantum Quantum Quantum Quantum

Quantum Science, Relativity, Quantum. Quantum

Quantum Quantum Quantum Quantum

It's easier just to go to work, than waste your time debating the legitimacy of facts.

> Less weight, find time to crack a joke.

Lay in bed, rest, relax, fall into pleasant sleep.
You can wake the next day, deal with it then.

Alright, enough self-help.

People in the audience were spellbound, the high vocals and hypnotic rhythm, gave us the chills and sweats.

You could see the 15 year old, skinny, long brown haired girl jumping up and down, was ecstatic.

Was it some vision from my past?

Or has science proven
that there are sustaining
similarities in the adolescence
experience, from past children.

Seeing that mode of expression, gave me hope in joy.

Felt, amazing, though.

Research shows that's because music stimulates an ancient reward pathway in the brain.

Encouraging dopamine to flood the striatum.

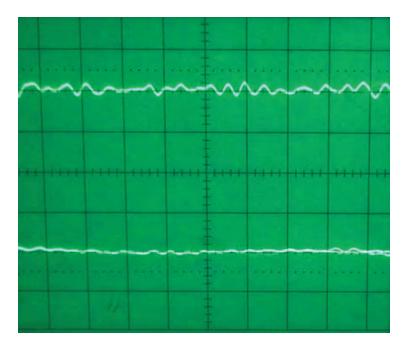
A little different than the pre-teen who wears a Bob Marley shirt because he thinks weed is cool.

Somewhere within that symbol of Marley, that has been co-opted by teens for weed propaganda, is a remembrance, of the cathartic experiences he went through,

and gave others, on stage, flailing around with a body overcome with cancer.

IRON. LION. ZION.

Says something about the human geist.



A depoliticized unifying transmission.

Physiological. The pleasure of the mind body dualism. I've been thinking of
Eva Hesse and Ana Mendieta
as wonderful and mature
older artists outside
of black and white
and 70's film grain.

Kind of like Agnes Martin or Agnes Varda.

But not quite.

Alles Klar?

BECAUSE YOUR KISS,

your kiss, is on,
my list.
Came on
at the crab shack
and took me out of
the harsh realities
that exist all the time.

Sometimes we need that kind of medicine.

Oh, sorry to diverge, I'll stay on topic.

He was as psycho and psychedelic as Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka.

I strive for that kind of charm.

But that was awhile ago.

He shops in SoHo now.

I guess he's successful.

But no one knows who Gene Wilder is anymore.



Jacques Costeau realized
he had to be more
kind
to the environment, after
a film he made
fucked up a habitat,
to get the
shot.

But that's outside the frame, the screen.

Don't tell anyone.

No one cares.

You gotta put food on the table, even if you have to go through the protest.

Like Brecht says, "First the grub, then the moral."

Sometimes you can see cats having existential thoughts.

In the work, he went more abstract as he got older and closer to death.

Back to the elements.

Back to particles.

The next day, he found himself as a celebrity.

The elite insider outsider.

It was another order of things.

That imperceptable Koyannisqatsi realism, at every level.

On the top of that hill they stored 58 old elementary school buses, that were breaking down similar to how everything breaks down, from ancient cities to Coca Cola bottles,

it's just natural.

Another order of things.

Just beyond, the quotidian repressively de-sublimated banality of the everyday.

Another great enigma, waiting to be found.

Kind of, but not quite.
In focus or out of focus?
Co-opt or Inspire?
Explain or Express?
Joy or Sadness?
Shift and Blend,

Cut to Black or Fade to Black.

The black bird disappeared into the field of corn when he dipped down.

It became apparent, that as we kept driving out west that they ran out of meaningful names for the towns.

They have a couple called: Noname

It's been ten years since my father died but I can still smell a hint of him in the only tattered t-shirt I have of his.
This interaction

with his ghost gives me enjoyable nostalgic chills. I wonder when the day will come when he leaves completely.

It's just about...
(Not right)
It's only about...
(Not right)
It's all about...
(Not right)

She was half native American and cowboy. Some thought that doesn't make sense...

The young petit-bourgeois radical's debate surrounded the efficacy of action/ non-action/ aesthetics/ de-tournament/ terrorism. until they read the play by Günter Grass, 'Max'. In which. a student has the idea to set his dog on fire in front of a café to get people to wake up.

Who knows what strategy works best for who.

I miss my old friends, in which we've shared golden moments.

What is the monetary value of that?

Sitting down in a circle of grey hairs.

Looking at the weather system, on our personal radars on our phones, we feel modern but are still archaic.

That's my vote.

Mapplethorpe, who loved a man, that could give him his dreams, but at the cost of his life.

On his deathbed, asked his brother, if he was dying, to which he said,

Yes, you, are.

Today, in an argument or critique, you can't say, the man didn't make things of beauty.

Was it worth it?

You tell me?

Your answer depends on who you are.

At 95 years old.

The constitution was written in 1787.

This year is 2016.

Only 229 year difference from Colonial times.

- 95

is almost half.
Almost, two back to back
100 year old people.

Young America, time to mature.

But go outside and take a fresh breath of non-air conditioned air.

Remember you're in the present, in your organic body.

Remember you have a degree of power.

HOLD, the terrorist on the ground, in the train, until the authorities arrive.

Think,
about the absurd
nature of death,
who can use it,
to co-opt
or inspire
and how laws,
attempt,
to make wrong,
right,
with justice.

Cut to black.

No, dive deep in a foreign ocean and notice how the light fades to black.

Lay on your back, on the hard floor and stare at the ceiling.

Invert your heteronormative homo sapien subjectivity.

Stare into the fire while the blizzard mixes with the shore on the beach.

Try to articulate its movements. Or the many movements around you.

A phenomenon that still bewilders man.

Woman.

All genders and all shades.

Tell me the world is still not full of mystery.

Sorry to disappoint you but no one goes to the beach in winter...

You and I know there is no God, but I'm still going to need you to pray for me on this one.

Like sitting next to Lincoln's death bed.

That's just a movie.

A 'flicker' film.

A real-life animation.

I mean, you get the concept that those images evoke, right?

He had the smug look of an ivy league school rapist, who was set free.

People wondered why the riots started to occur.

Now, the micro-histories appeared.

The sub-histories came to the fore.

The people's perspective, the commons, through the eyes of digital media.

We've forgotten about Abu Ghraib...

What's the priority for you?

Warhol recently updated his dictum to, "Everyone has an online audience for a potential second of attention."

> That's been proven by digital algorithms for marketing strategists by those chosen

corporate gurus who hide in the back rooms on the 13th floor.

Aesthetic vultures.

Data.

Information logistics.

The human being as number.

Add them up diagonally!

PROSPERITY EVERY YEAR.

But the number is hard to imagine.

It just blends, into a multitude at a certain point.

Try making up a history to prove your rhetoric, to convince people's naivety as truth, at a certain point.

It may work for you.

It may not.

So what, free speech is no crime.

Mis-education is no crime.

He has the microphone.

We have to shrill.

(pleasant smile)

Her chipped painted fingernails, was a relief.

I don't trust people who appear to have it all figured out.

But it's Christmas eve!

We were in the warm living room.
You could see the luminance
radiating from those 50's Christmas tree lights.

It was domestic sublime.

Change the channel
from the murder
on the news
to the old re-runs
of 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.'

I guess I remember
the familial moral lessons
from the show,
but just end up getting
chronic nostalgia.
If you can't relate,
google your favorite cartoon
or show from childhood.

Lose yourself for five minutes.

Spend your summer evenings,
in tank tops,
outdoors, getting high
to the ambient
noise of insects,
while sharing some laughs
with your closest friends
from elementary school.

I mean that sincerely.

I found the physical photograph, which is becoming rarer, and put her image in my car.

A WWII gaze, is what I felt.

But a 90's filmic recreation.

The production company had about 50 years to ponder how to depict it.

It was a minor rebellion, against his own counter-hegemonic institution.

BANG!

The same initial audience reaction, reflex, that happened when the early silent movie, 'The Great Train Robbery',

was screened, never left the moving image.

It hides within the spectacular nature of every image.

From the assumed authentic news to the push-the-fucking-product advertisement to the niche foreign drama.

Unaware, of unwritten processes.

One of the only things
I still remember
of my paranoid schizophrenic
mother, is her dancing
in the autumnal morning light,
in the kitchen,
to Madonna's La Isla Bonita.

All of nature, wild and free.

Found Darwin in the bargain bin.

The most his efforts added up to was a documentary of his efforts on the history channel.

The Italian Marxist, Antonio Negri, was touched by Amanda in the 80's coming of age American blockbuster.

She played a popular high school girl, who gets paid to go out with a nerd boy, but ends up falling for him.

Oh, how we all fall.

A stupid archetypal story, but still

heartwarming.

It is said,
Negri then googled her,
to find her image from the movie
juxtaposed with various mugshots,
from her real life.

Later, he found out about her overdose and became distraught for the rest of the evening.

It was an all too common unwritten story of the failures that exist off screen.

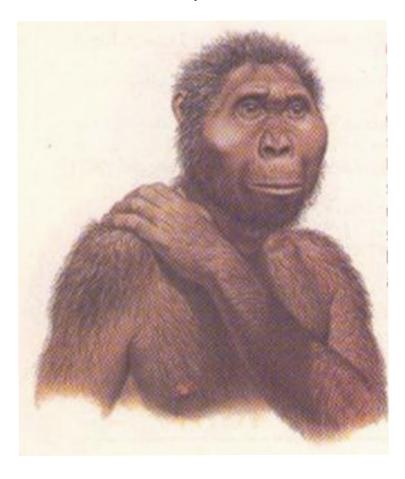
Outside of text.

Written on the face that has evolved from the ideal image of youth, held. Heartbreaking.

It was enough to make the people cry in the streets.

But the black belt is no match for the gun.

The hominid, looked into the child's eyes.



It was a slightly shifting moment, between civil and savage, that still hides within every image or outside the frame version of ourselves.

But, that's too illustrative.

How about spoken from Robert Kennedy, quoting Aeschylus, in a YouTube video, in a poor a neighborhood, the night MLK was shot,

"To tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world."

A depoliticized unifying transmission.

Co-opt and Inspire?

Conatus.

Ah, this is an old debate between analysis and intuition.

The I read vs.
The I feel.

Please leave a donation.

At the end of the Spinoza class,
When we learned the highest insight,
the intellectual love
of God/Nature,
was still
only of this world,
of this life.

Everyone let out an exhaustive sigh.

But each was excited to view the world differently in each's time they had left.

So, you too, the author are co-opting death...

Spending time, tracing the frame, with the subtle shakes of Frank Stella's hand.

Anyways, the latest controversial artwork by controversial artist, Santiago, was that he was giving homeless people Monet water-lilly blankets to keep them warm.

His conceptual reasoning was, "To keep them warm while the viewer could

look at something pleasant."

A, win, win.

Some bullshit emancipatory claim art seems to have.

Some book of quips. Aphorisms.

Shut-up!

Shut the window. Exit the windows on your screen.

Leave the circuit breakers off.

Close the curtain
between hospital beds.

It's time for privacy.

Try to re-imagine how the money became monopoly money at a certain point.

The perfect subtle direct action for capitalists to subject youth to the idea that life only consists of winners and losers, and who controls the most of life's excesses is the winner.

But that only applies to the rules on a 2D board, with only 4 players.

How many players in a country?

Who doesn't get to play?

Some kind of circus...

Sorry, my English isn't so well.

The default lingua franca.

Have some consideration.

It's because you had the chance to privatize it.

They, those, didn't exist.

So this is the setting.

When you take a moment, to sit and read or stand.

The info under the guise of poetry.

An experiential metaphysical haze. Float fluidly between language and image only on land.

It's not radical, it's just past center left.

A little more of a push forward.

"DROOLING GIBBERISH HALLUCINATIONS!," the G.O.P. said.

A no glasses, 3D life.

Unbind the pigment.

Two gelled slicked back heads of hair bump into each other.

Too busy to care about another millionaire.

F'in baby boomers.
Runnin wild with the economy since the liberating 70's...

The grandson claimed he didn't want to live off the family name.

Of the avant-garde filmmaker, whose son fetishizes weed in Colorado.

The rats were now traveling on the telephone lines.

Some new alternate route.

The ghost of Christmas past Vs.
The ghost of Christmas present.

The silence was eerie.

The search dogs scrambling to find signs of life after the avalanche.

In a moment, they were covered by a blanket of white. Was it one, two or three?

How do we feel math works in this equation?

He made it into the Guinness book of world records, which I loved to read.

Her or Him, was the best in the world.

The greatest.

For an achievement that doesn't matter anymore.

It's been out of print for 20 years.

10 more seconds than...

10 more inches than...

Bring me a higher love!

Ohhhhhhh Ohh

Came on the radio at the abject bagel shop and everyone started dancing as if they were in an 80's music video.

That made me smile.
When the two Mexican dudes behind the counter with backwards hats, high-fived.

This is a vision of America I dream about.

The CEO's teeth were chattering nervously because their consumers were divesting, in an act to help the rust belt.

Laissez faire economical historians refer to this as 'The ethical turn.'

But it all seemed like a bunch of quotes, motifs, references, that pointed towards something central.

Think of the word
'sustainable' apart
from the 'green' suburban
rhetoric in which it became popular.

Or 'peace', apart from what

the hippies have done to the term.

Is it wrong to dream
of escaping to Mexico,
like Tim Robbins,
a prisoner falsely accused for life,
in the 'Shawshank Redemption',
while I'm at work?

It's a sub-clause in Marx's chapter on alienation.

Doesn't matter, we called him 'Rain-man' because he tried to add up numbers without his phone calculator.

He got it wrong anyway.

We still call him 'Rain-man' though.

The varnish of the new always comes off.

At least, everyone died in style when the tidal wave came.
Well, some were in another state.

The motion was similar to a rusted and shaking animatronic conveying the movements of a lion's

animism.

A glitchy CGI.

Just stare
at a ballerina
spinning 360 degrees
in slow motion
in a tin music box
playing silent night.

Zoom out.

Hallein, Austria is where that song originated.

Wherever that is.

Oh, the solitude of an obese man on the subway playing solitaire on his phone.

Did he win?

How does it end?

For who? (detail-less)

Who will remember, (detail-less)

what? (detail-less)

Where will you be

when that happened? (detail-less, emotionless)

Did it matter? (detail-less, in a flash, you are, out-of-date)

For who?
(another, order-of-things)
(the words have outgrown the typeface)

What

will be

your medicine,

when,

you
have a fever
dream in the arctic?