

TRANSLATIONS

[Guillaume Apollinaire]

Surabaya-Johnny

I was young, God, just sixteen years. You came from
Burma.
You said I should go with you, you would take care of all.
I asked about your job. You said as true as I'm standing
here:
You had something to do with the railway and nothing to
do
with the sea.

You said a lot, Johnny, not a word was true, Johnny.
You betrayed me, Johnny, from the first hour!
I hate you so, Johnny, how you stand there and grin,
Johnny.
So take that pipe out of your mouth, you dog!

Surabaya Johnny, why are you so raw?
Surabaya Johnny, my God, and I love you so!
Surabaya Johnny, why am I not happy?
You have no heart, Johnny, and I love you so!

At first it was always Sunday. So it was, until I went with
you.
But then, already after two weeks, nothing with you was
right with me.
Up and down through the Punjab, along the river to the
sea:
I already look like a forty-year-old in the mirror.

You didn't want love, Johnny, you wanted money, Johnny.
I only looked, Johnny, at your mouth.
You desired everything, Johnny. I gave you more, Johnny.
So take that pipe out of your mouth, you dog!

I never wondered why you have such a name.
Yet on the entire long coast you were a known guest.
One morning in a flophouse bed I will hear the thundering
sea;
and you go, without saying anything, and a ship lies down
on the waterfront.

You have no heart, Johnny. You are a louse, Johnny.
You are going away now, Johnny, tell me the reason!
I love you still, Johnny, like the first day, Johnny.
So take that pipe out of your mouth, you dog!

[Bertolt Brecht]

from Banalités – Francis Poulenc

Hôtel

My room has the form of a cage.
The sun reaches its arm in through the window.
But I want to smoke and make shapes in the air,
and so I light my cigarette on the sun's fire.
I don't want to work, I want to smoke.

Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt – Hugo Wolf

Only one who knows longing
Knows what I suffer!
Alone and cut off
From all joy,
I look into the firmament
In that direction.
Ah! he who loves and knows me
Is far away.
I am reeling,
My entrails are burning.
Only one who knows longing
Knows what I suffer!

[Johann Wolfgang von Goethe]

Marieke

Oh Marieke, Marieke, I loved you so much
Between the towers of Bruges and Ghent
Oh Marieke, Marieke, long ago
Between the towers of Bruges and Ghent

Without love, warm love - The wind blows, the stupid wind
Without love, warm love - The ocean cries, the grey ocean

Without love, warm love - The light suffers, the dark light
And the sand scours my country - My flat country, my
Flanders

Oh Marieke, Marieke, the Flemish sky
The colour of the towers between Bruges and Ghent
Oh Marieke, Marieke, the Flemish sky
Cries with me from Bruges to Ghent

Without love, warm love - The wind blows "IT'S OVER"
Without love - The ocean cries "ALREADY OVER"

Without love - The light suffers, "EVERYTHING IS OVER"
And the sand scours my country My flat country, my
Flanders

Without love, warm love - The devil laughs, the black devil
Without love, warm love - My heart burns, my old heart

Oh Marieke, Marieke, rewind the time
Rewind the time back to Bruges and Ghent
Oh Marieke, Marieke, rewind the time
Where you loved me, from Bruges to Ghent

[Jacques Breil]