

Sean Landers



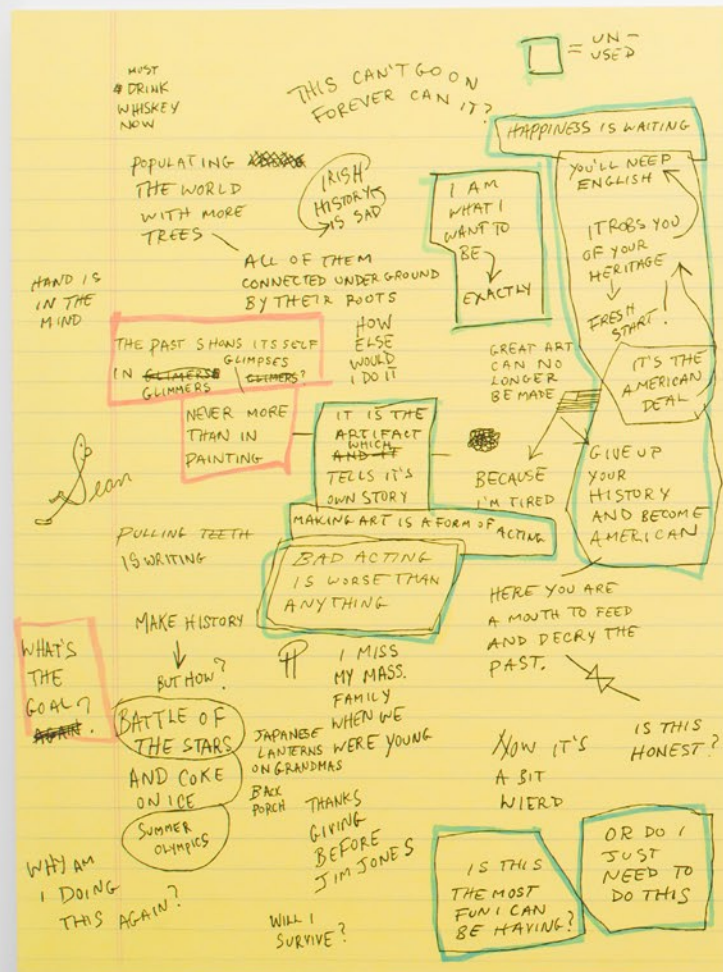




# Sean Landers

Petzel





I'M A JOKE?  
I'M A JOKE!  
I'M A JOKE.

BANG BANG!  
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE





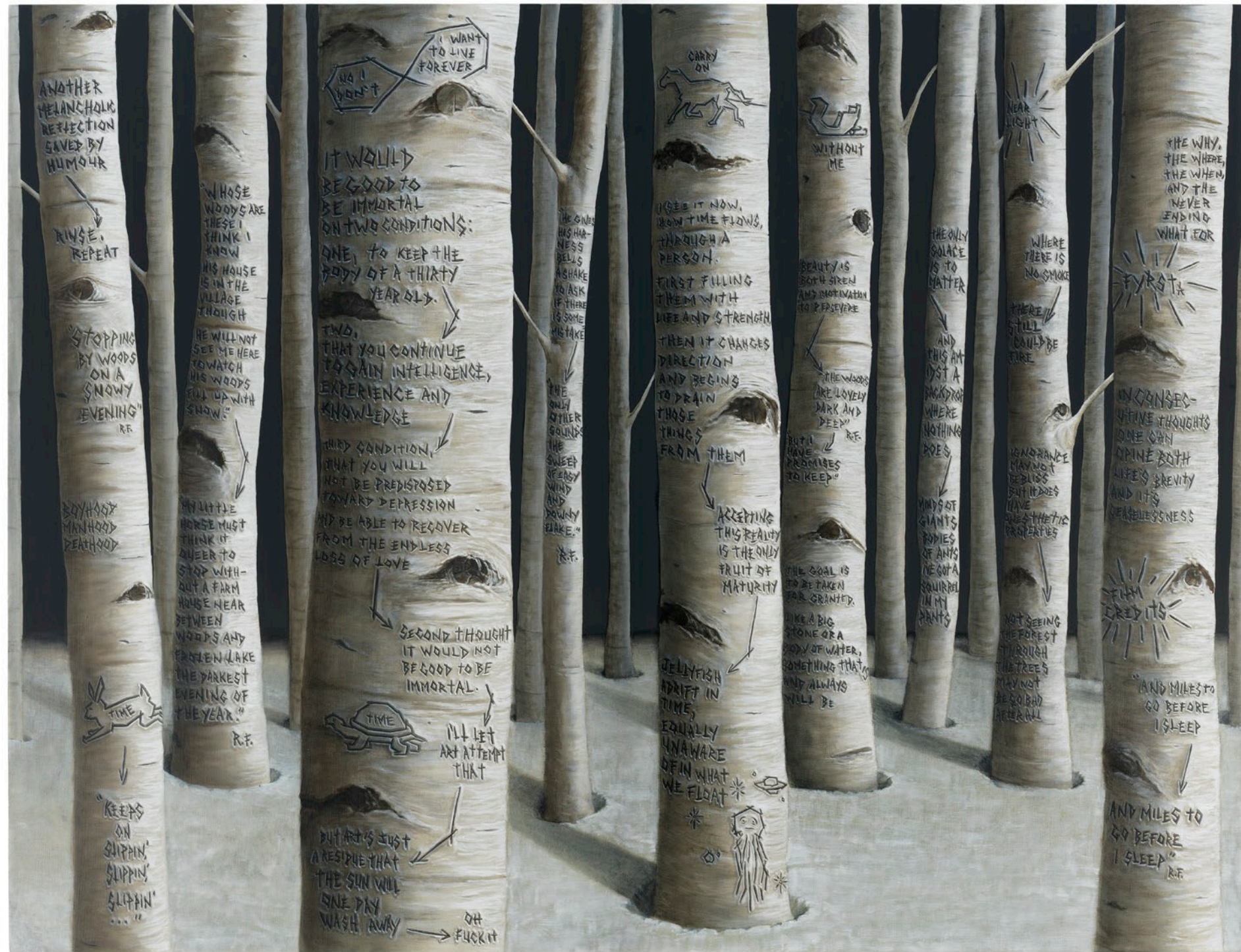




BE OBVIOUS, JUST  
DON'T BE OBVIOUS  
ABOUT IT







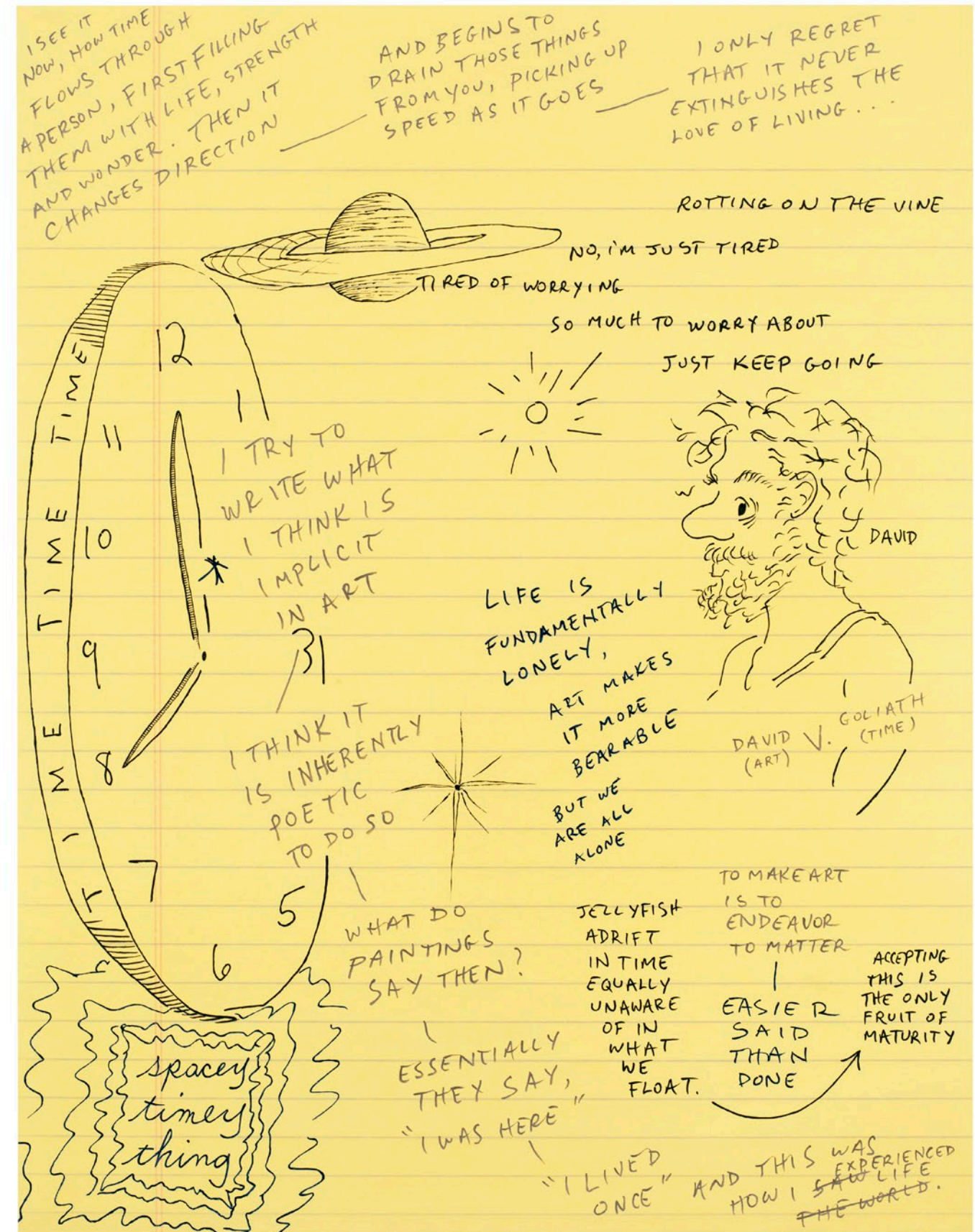


THE ONLY  
SOLACE IS  
TO MATTER

BOYHOOD  
MANHOOD  
DEATHOOD



ANOTHER MELANCHOLIC  
REFLECTION SAVED  
BY HUMOR →  
RINSE REPEAT

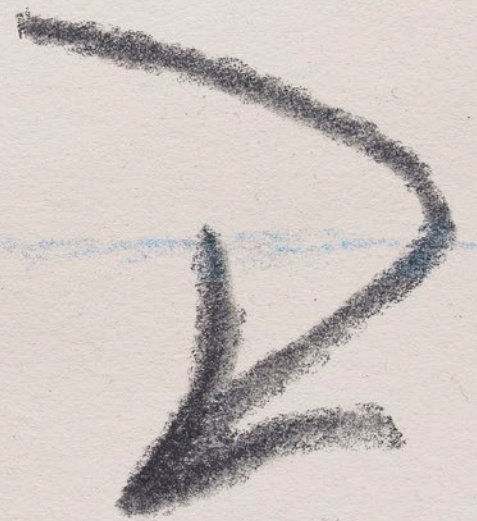




ANOTHER MELANCHOLY

REFLECTION SAVE

Y HUMOR



ENSE REPEAT







I'M A JOKE?  
I'M A JOKE!  
I'M A JOKE.

JUST KIDDING )  
( NO I'M NOT ←  
→ YES I AM )  
NO I'M NOT ↩



IN BARREL  
APPROACHING  
THE FALLS

WHY ALL OF THIS?

WHEN THE FREEDOM BECOMES THE CAGE AND THE CAGE BECOMES FREEDOM

ISN'T ART IN SOME WAY IS THE PURSUIT OF SOME FORM OF PERFECTION?

PERFECT LIGHT  
PERFECT PHRASE  
PERFECT ~~NOTE~~ ~~NOTE~~ ~~NOTE~~

WE LOOK FOR THE BEST OF OURSELVES IN THE LABORS OF OTHERS.

WE ALL YOU NEED ME TO SUCCEED

PERFECTION IS ~~TO SOME~~ ~~DEGREE~~ ~~WHAT WE ARE~~ ~~ALL AFTER~~

OK, I WILL TRY HARDER THEN

WHAT AM I AFTER?  
IT WAS SO CLOSE TO ME TODAY, I ALMOST ~~HAD IT~~

GOT TO IT, BUT IT GOT AWAY. I WONDER ABOUT IT THOUGH, WHERE IT IS, WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, AND HOW IT'S DOING.

ONCE AGAIN BUT I ALMOST HAD IT

EVERYTHING ELUDED ME

THEY WERE HERE JUST A HAIR'S BREADTH AWAY

DEATH LOOKS INTO ~~THE~~ LIFE'S EYES AND FALLS IN LOVE  
LIFE LOOKS INTO DEATH'S EYES AND SEES AN ASSHOLE IN MIDLIFE CRISIS

FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO EVER SEE <sup>THIS</sup> PAINTING I WILL LAY DOWN MY HEART HERE → IS THIS ART

DEATH IS IN EVERY GOODBYE - A. SEXTON

WE DON'T WANT ~~MEANLY WANT~~ ONLY TO EXPRESS OURSELVES BUT TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF SHIT UP IDIOT

IN BARREL APPROACHING THE FALLS

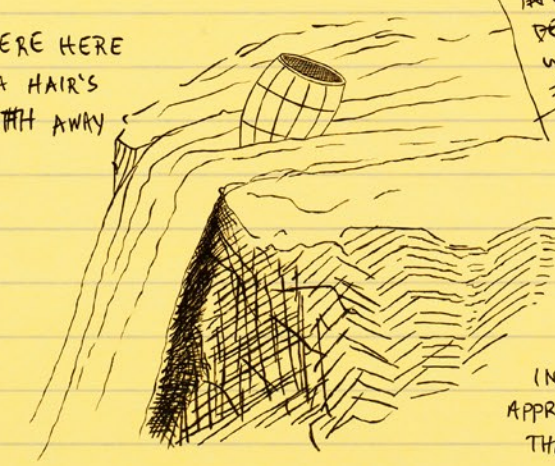
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO DRIVEN TO TRY BUT I AM AND I DO

BELIEVE WE'VE THE BEST OF OUR SPECIES LIES

THANK

THEREFOR

I ~~HAVE~~ ~~BEEN~~ CLOSE BE ~~COUNTLESS~~ ~~THAT'S~~ BUT I ~~STILL~~ HAVEN'T FOUND IT





WERE HERE  
T A HAIR'S  
ADTH AWAY









THE VERY LONELY,  
THE BARELY LONELY  
AND THE REST OF US

YVES KLEIN LEAPT  
INTO THE VOID.  
THE REST OF US  
SEND IT POSTCARDS



TRUE ARTISTS  
ARE TRULY  
AFFLICTED ↘  
THE TRULY  
AFFLICTED ARE  
SELDOM ARTISTS

WE WANT  
COMPANY







I AM STILL  
THIS GUY

MY EXISTANCE  
IS AS TENUOUS  
AS YOUR  
ATTENTION



I HAVE TO  
FEEL IT OR  
YOU WON'T

INTRO  
↓

Sean

AGEING IS THE PENULTIMATE  
CONTENT OF ART  
DEATH IS THE ULTIMATE

IT'S ALL  
ANYONE  
WANTS  
THIS IS  
ALL JUST  
AN ARTICULATION  
OF THAT  
THING.

WE WERE  
ALL YOUNG  
BEAUTIFUL  
AND RELEVANT  
ONCE. ~~THEY~~  
~~THEY~~

TIME ALWAYS HAS  
THE LAST LAUGH

DON'T  
BE →  
OBVIOUS  
↓  
I CAN'T  
HELP IT  
↓  
THEN BE  
VERY  
OBVIOUS  
- RETURN  
LOVE  
- CRY IN  
PRIVATE

FLICKER DIMMING  
PROTOCOLS:  
- TIGHTEN CORE  
- RESET FANTASIES  
- GAIN PERSPECTIVE  
- ENJOY SMALL VICTORIES

THE FIRST TIME  
YOU SEE IT, IT'S  
IN A YOUNG PERSON'S  
EYES AS THEY  
LOOK AT YOU

YOUTH  
PASSES  
SO FAST

ONE MOMENT  
YOU'RE THE  
NEW GUY  
AND THEN NEXT  
YOU'RE THE  
ESTABLISHMENT  
AND THEN YOU'RE  
FORGOTTEN

A ROBOT  
A POET  
TIN MAN  
HEART

ENVELOPS YOU  
IT ENVELOPS  
QUICKLY AFTER  
THAT  
THEN  
AND IT NEVER  
LETS GO

THE FIRST TIME YOU SEE IT,  
IT'S IN A YOUNG PERSON'S  
EYES. IT ENVELOPS YOU  
QUICKLY AFTER THAT AND  
IT NEVER LETS GO.

THE FIRST TIME YOU SEE THE FLICKER OF YOUR  
LIFE DIMMING IT'S IN THE EYES OF A  
YOUNG PERSON OBSERVING YOU. IT ENVELOPS  
YOU QUICKLY AFTER THAT AND NEVER LETS  
GO OF YOU.







TIME CRUSHES  
WITH GRADUAL  
WEIGHT

OUR ONLY COMP-  
ANIONS ARE OUR  
OWN VANISHING  
TRACKS IN FRESHLY  
FALLEN SNOW



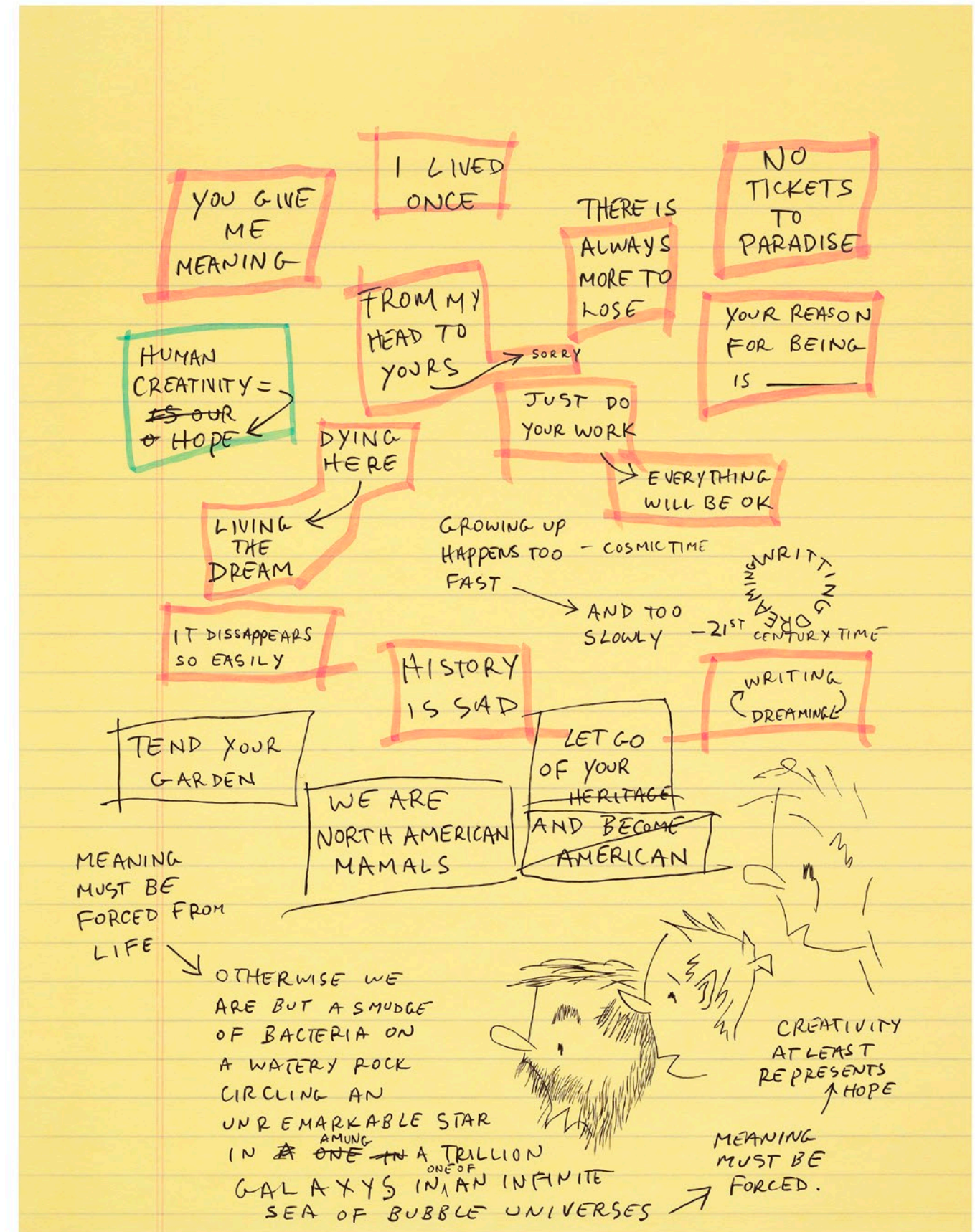
ONLY CO  
LONS ARE  
N VANISHIN  
CKS IN FREES  
FAN







I LIVED  
ONCE

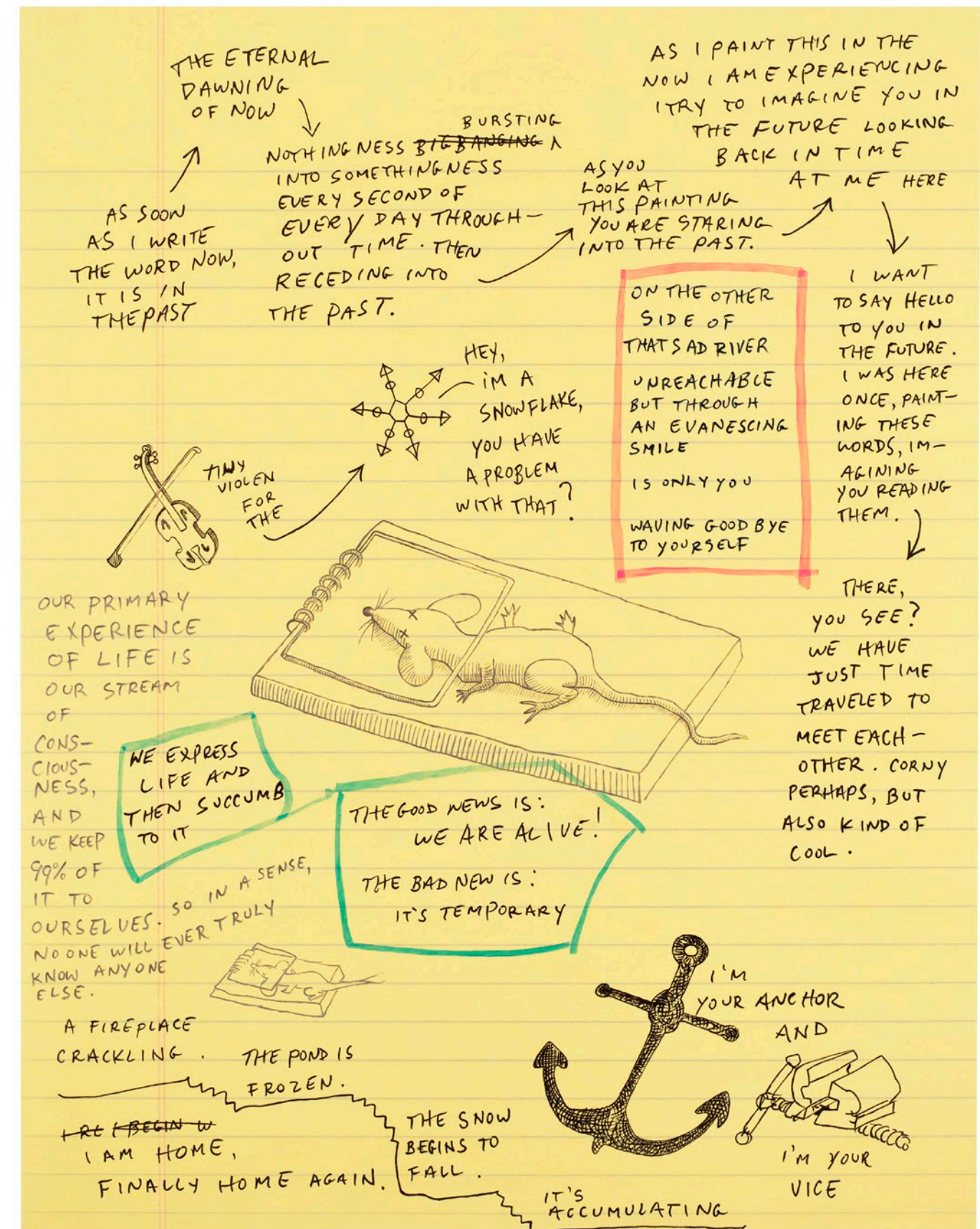








THE GOOD NEWS:  
WE'RE ALIVE!  
THE BAD NEWS:  
IT'S TEMPORARY.





THINGS I'VE  
LEARNED

PART  
ONE

CONTIN-  
UES TO  
GROW

8. PEOPLE  
ARE ESSEN-  
TIALY  
GOOD

9. OUR WEA-  
TH + MAN







WRITE WHAT'S  
REALLY TRUE  
AND YOU'LL NEVER  
GO HUNGRY

48. THERE IS NO WINNING OR LOSING, WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE

49. POSITIVE THOUGHTS EQUAL PRODUCTIVE DAYS

50. BUSY DAYS ARE EQUAL HAPPY NIGHTS

51. HAPPY NIGHTS ARE RESTFUL NIGHTS.

52. RESTFUL NIGHTS LEAD TO POSITIVE THOUGHTS AND PRODUCTIVE DAYS.

53. AND UNDENYABLE DISAPPOINTMENT ~~WITH~~ UPON DELIVERY

54. WELL, NOT ALWAYS

55. THERE IS A LOT OF SHAME IN BEING A WHITE AMERICAN MALE LATELY

56. WORRYING GETS YOU NOWHERE.

57. CONCENTRATION IS OUR POWER

58. WRITE WHAT'S REALLY TRUE AND YOU'LL NEVER GO HUNGRY

59. FATHERS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS MOTHERS

60. WE MISTAKE THE NATURAL ORDER WITH CHAOS, WHEN CHAOS IS ACTUALLY HUMAN CONTROL / MANMADE

61. INTERNET WILL DIMINISH HUMANITY

62. ALGORITHMS ALREADY INFLUENCE OUR THOUGHT PATTERNS

63. DIFFICULT TO NOT FEEL DOOMED SOMETIMES

64. LIFE FEELS SO PERMANENT

65. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE NOT EXISTING

66. ~~HAVE~~ ~~SEEN~~ BIRTHS AND DEATHS ~~ARE~~ ARE THE MOST INTIMATE HUMAN EXPERIENCES

67. THERE ARE BEARS IN THE WOODS THAT COULD EAT YOU

68. UNREQUITTED LOVE = MAKING ART

69. COME WITH ME TO ICELAND

70. SIT BY MY WINDOW WITH ME AND WATCH BIRDS AND THINK

71. I'M A DERIVATION OF A POET

72. HOW DO I GET AWAY WITH THIS

73. DON'T LET DEATH TAKE YOU EARLY

74. ETERNITY IS LONG, LIFE IS SHORT

75. EVEN IF LIFE SUCKS IT'S BETTER THAN NON EXISTANCE

76. EARTH IS WARMING

77. ICEBERG DEAD AHEAD

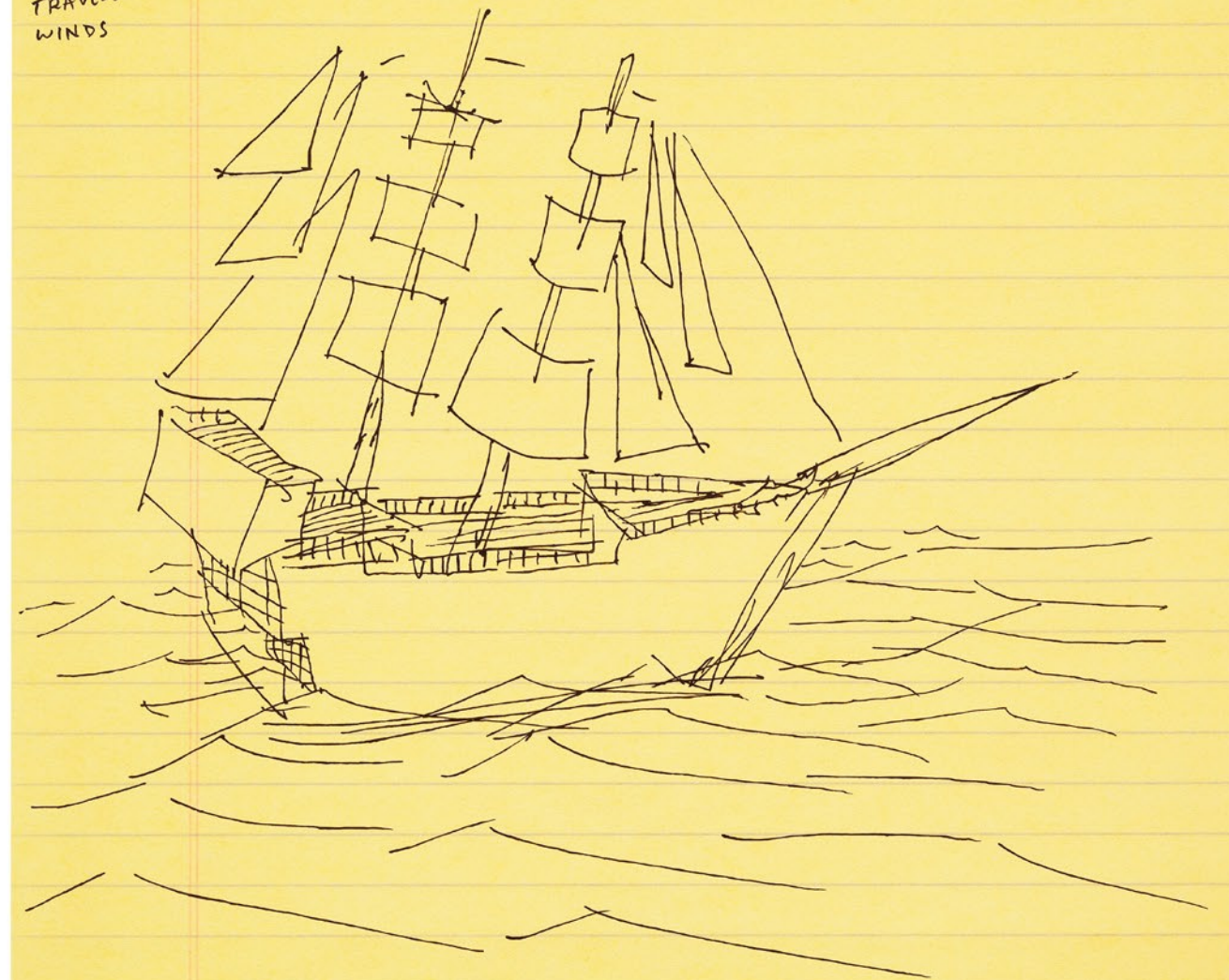
THINGS I'VE LEARNED PART III



IN CONSECUTIVE  
THOUGHTS ONE COULD  
OPINE BOTH LIFE'S  
BREVITY AND IT'S  
CEASELESSNESS

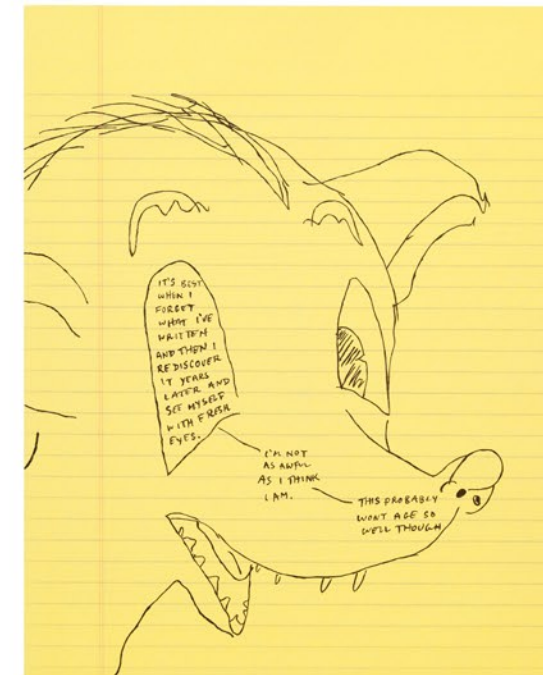
DAWN BREAKS UPON THE SEA  
A FRAIL VESSEL SLIPS ACROSS A LEE  
IT'S CRUSTY HULL CARVES BARELY A TRACE  
STEADILY PROGRESSING IN LIFE'S RACE  
AT HELM, A STALWART FELLOW AT HIS OWN COMMAND  
EVERY LAST STROKE BY HIS OWN HAND  
LIGHTNING IGNITES CLOUD AND CREST  
SONIC DINS EXPLODING - A TEMPEST!  
A LONE WITNESS HOLDS FAST HIS TILLER  
ADRIFT ON THE BRINE, HIS OWN PILLAR  
HE KNOWS NOT ONE PORT  
TWIXT N ASCENCE AND MORT  
TILL THAT DAY THE WORLD SPINS  
AS THIS LONE FELLOW  
TRAVELS HER  
WINDS

"HERE IS TO THEY WHO GO  
DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS"  
A DEPTH TO WHICH WE ALL MUST  
SOME DAY SLIP  
IT IS BETTER TO HAVE BEEN  
THEN TO NEVER HAVE SEEN  
A DAY UPON THIS BRINY BLUE  
TIS A FORTUNE UNKNOWN TO ALL BUT FEW  
SEA BELOW ME AND SKY ABOVE  
AS DUSK FALLS, I AM ALL LOVE





SAY YOUR  
GOOD BYES  
AND THEN  
NEVER LEAVE





IT'S BEST  
WHEN I  
FORGET  
WHAT I'VE  
WRITTEN  
AND THEN I  
REDISCOVER  
IT YEARS  
LATER AND  
SEE MYSELF  
WITH FRESH  
EYES.

I'M NOT  
AS AWFUL  
AS I THINK  
I AM.

THIS PROBABLY





Sean Landers

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New York

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pp. 2–3  
Installation  
view, left to  
right:

*Happiness Is  
Waiting*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
72¼ × 55 in.

*I'm a Joke?*  
*I'm a Joke!*  
*I'm a Joke.*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

*Bang Bang!*  
*You're Still  
Alive*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

*Things I've  
Learned  
Part Two*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

pp. 4–5  
*On the Nature  
of Daylight*  
2014  
Oil on linen  
60 × 90 in.

p. 6  
*Be Obvious,  
Just Don't  
Be Obvious  
About It*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 7  
*Middle Children  
Try Harder*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

pp. 8–9  
*Stopping by  
Woods on a  
Snowy Evening*  
2015  
Oil on linen  
60 × 78 in.

p. 10  
*The Only Solace  
Is to Matter*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 11  
*Boyhood  
Manhood  
Deathood*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 12  
*Another  
Melancholic  
Reflection  
Saved By  
Humor—  
Rinse Repeat*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 13  
*David v. Goliath*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

pp. 16–17  
*Joke? Joke!  
Joke.*  
2015  
Oil on linen  
54 × 72 in.

p. 18  
*I'm a Joke?*  
*I'm a Joke!*  
*I'm a Joke.*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 19  
*Just Kidding—  
No I'm Not—  
Yes I Am—  
No I'm Not*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 20  
*In Barrel  
Approaching  
the Falls*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 21  
*In Barrel  
Approaching  
the Falls*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

pp. 24–25  
*The Very  
Lonely, the  
Barely Lonely,  
and the Rest  
of Us*  
2015  
Oil on linen  
66 × 90 in.

p. 26  
*The Very  
Lonely, the  
Barely Lonely  
and the Rest  
of Us*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 27  
*Yves Klein  
Leapt into the  
Void. The Rest  
of Us Send It  
Postcards*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 28  
*True Artists Are  
Truly Afflicted—  
The Truly  
Afflicted Are  
Seldom Artists*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 29  
*We Want  
Company*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

pp. 30–31  
*Never Kissing  
You Back*  
2015  
Oil on linen  
58 × 74 in.

p. 32  
*I Am Still  
This Guy*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 33  
*My Existence Is  
As Tenuous As  
Your Attention*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 34  
*I Have To Feel  
It or You Won't*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 35  
*Flicker  
Dimming  
Protocols*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

pp. 36–37  
*I'm Spent,  
I Love You*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
58 × 79 in.

p. 38  
*Time Crushes  
with Gradual  
Weight*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 39  
*Our Only  
Companions  
Are Our Own  
Vanishing  
Tracks in  
Freshly Fallen  
Snow*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 42  
*Life Is Lottery*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 43  
*What Do  
Paintings Say?*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 44  
*I Lived Once*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 45  
*History is Sad*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

p. 46  
*This Thing*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 47  
*The Void of Us*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 48  
*The Good News:  
We're Alive!  
The Bad News:  
It's Temporary.*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 49  
*The Eternal  
Dawning  
of Now*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

p. 52  
*Things I've  
Learned  
Part One*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 53  
*Things I've  
Learned  
Part Two*  
2017  
Oil on linen  
72 × 61½ in.

p. 54  
*Write What's  
Really True  
and You'll Never  
Go Hungry*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 55  
*Things I've  
Learned  
Part III*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

p. 56  
*In Consecutive  
Thoughts One  
Could Opine  
Both Life's  
Brevity and Its  
Ceaselessness*  
2017  
Graphite and  
colored pencil  
on paper  
22½ × 30 in.

p. 57  
*Dawn Breaks*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
71½ × 55½ in.

p. 58  
*Say Your  
Goodbyes and  
Then Never  
Leave*  
2017  
Graphite and  
ink on paper  
18 × 23¾ in.

p. 59  
*Fresh Eyes*  
2017  
Oil and archival  
inkjet on  
canvas  
28 × 21½ in.

Sean Landers  
lives and  
works in New  
York City.

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