

### *STILL TASTING PETALS*

The color-drunk seasons  
of sun are falling asunder  
before my eyes, but with  
no taste for elegy  
or mournfulness, I keep  
standing hip-deep  
in undergrowth listening  
to the rattle of  
brittle seeds.

And at last warn myself:  
Beware of communion with  
winter scenes and sounds,  
and rather be redeemed  
in body and mind with  
verisimilitudes, with  
rituals and ceremonies;  
even so, as I walk on  
along the middle of  
a concrete road,  
I still taste petals  
and smell the breath  
of blue water against  
sampans of lily pads.

DAVID CORNEL DEJONG

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