

Longshot Broken Beer Bottle Dreams

Writing is a contradiction
because to see it through
you must put your brains aside
and go with your balls and your guts

that's all you have
in the artistic world

that's why there is a
great tragedy
about being an artist

my brains tells me
I should give in
that it's a longshot broken beer bottle dream

that I should get a college education
and become one of the *informed*

then become an English teacher
and take my place
in the long line of
unhappy, but responsible
humans awaiting
the soft, cool
dirt

but my heart
and my guts
tell me
different

they tell me
to get comfortable
some way else

take comfort
in good music
and rich foods when you can get them

to smoke cheap cigarettes

until you can afford a fine cigar
to sleep on the grass
until you can afford a room
and sell off everything I own
except the typewriter
so I can use it as a pillow

it tells me
to live outside of the real world

see,
artists are just as bad as criminals
a con and a hack
don't take life at face value

that's why we walk around like
wounded foot soldiers all day
because we put our hearts into something
and then are smacked down so hard
by the way things really are

this is the real reason
artists are never completely happy

we imagine the world
to be a much better, easier place than it is

and for people who claim to be
on the very peak of society
it's the man married at 22
who hates his wife
working 13 hours a day
every day for 17 years
so his kids can eat
who's the realist

not me

I claim
to suck out
all the bullshit
and be *real*

but I'm the one
thinking about getting my name in lights

getting them way up
there

4' by 12'
baby

while in my boxer shorts
the clock ticking away until
I have to clean dirty underwear
for a mere 7.25 an hour

but in here
I can be as fake as I want to be

and no one understands
nor do I want them to

because believing
in yourself when no one else does
is a beautiful to me
as some exotic flower
or a knockout punch
during the last few seconds
of the 12th round

and it's a small price to be called
crazy or foolish
when crazy is the sanest
way to go through
life