28 portraits spiralling down,
I'm the last portrait standing
Injected memories, force-fed
Waiting further instructions.

Have an ambition, represent,
Make sense in pressure-cooker
Am I too salty? Bittersweet?
Tasteless? Tasteful? A Toaster?

Alcohol!

Empathy's limited, homegrown
Why think if you don't have to?
I'll thus change tone & storyline
and hope this poem's half true:

/Tepee\ international finds a tribe
And tribes all bike together,
Under the quiet, grey canal's
Water display weather

Library studying – coughing choir
Deadlines don't kill, just tire
To make new friends of great height
I gazed at night life
(And yes, they are directness-rife,
And yes, Nietzsche was right)

More A L C O H O L ! ! !

mY nAMe Is tHIls
mY coUNtRY's tHAth
And now you know my story
Let's mispronounce everything,
i tRIEd, YoU trLed, dOn'T WOrRy!

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRleH_j4WQw
November 2018

Chinese Dictation Test

Well-mannered stressors
with Friendly features,
Civil oppressors
and Righteous preachers

Democracy test:
Accept any opinion
Take pride in yours too,
We’re merely 8 billion.

I dreamt of exams
-but in Chinese!
(You know how it went
I can barely read this)

How is everyone
So sure of themselves,
While, here I am,
Failing imaginary tests?

If I am stressed,
Then something is stressful
(Around broken glass,
You’re usually careful)

Saying what you mean,
No-one offending,
-Forget it, say half,
Ensure a good ending!

But, maybe, just once,
I could barf my assessment,
My theory, viewpoint,
The id in the basement.

But alas!
I can’t -without repercussions,
All animals are equal,
But some, more than others.

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=rA6T7rSYn3Q
December 2018

Ikea Poetry

Ikea poetry could sell -
It would come with instructions!
For when thinking pays overtime
And poets have working hours:

-What does this mean?
-That’s page 2 of the instruction manual.
-I see. The picture helps!
-We love a happy customer!

This business of interpreting
One-size-fits-all model,
Could make us all a family
With only one big brother.

So, get what you will/
Nothing at all,
Poetry isn’t science.
Writing in verse and making sense,
Now that’s a strange alliance!

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwdvx20nF2o
January 2019

**Story of a Sad Cat**

Tetris blocks pouring down-
All wrong.
Holding everything back-
In bloated silence.
“Who took the exit sign?”, asked the cat.
“And why?”
As she heard rodents giggling in defiance.

Ten little mice sat drinking wine
One drank too much -and there were nine.
Nine little mice wanted to mate
One wrecked a home -and there were eight.
Eight little mice thought it’d be fun
To upset the cat -so now there’s none.

The cat’s still sad,
The mice are gone;
She is well-fed,
But misses home.

**Link to video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=oSu5YmMougA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=oSu5YmMougA)
February 2019

**Birdwatching for Amateurs**

We went birdwatching, you and I,
On the green flatness, north;
Seashells in mud, feathers on rock,
Breathing Aeolus against Noordzee flurries.

February heat migrated south
(and birds must know, by word of mouth)
But you and I
Sneeze out of place,
(earth magi after a celestial trace)

And maybe birds
are watching us
Through reed, rent brakes, and seaweed grass...

What I can give,
I’ll give to you
Since scripta manent,
I will, too.
March 2019

Lying Perfectly Still

I have no social media
(and no-one gives a damn),
But throw my birthday parties
On slow or lonely months

Oh, I’m turned off
Alas, albeit, alpacas too - I’m bored
No Twitter wit & intellect
Or fancy words galore

“C’est l’Ennu!”
The decadent, Onion-head exclaims,
His voice I hear through centuries of
“Daughter, have real aims!”

If I lie still and count dead ends,
May I please go to sleep?
Or Insta-mummified become,
(Ten filters in, too deep?)

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INTjSR8I41k
April 2019

Ode to The Unsightly Eggplant*

How I lament the Odd one out -
Misshapen and Forlorn
Inelegantly hurled to Waste,
Doomed from the day 'twas Born!

Its ~rounder, shinier, prettier~ kin
Like marble busts admired!
Attracting Hands, offering Bites
To Supermarket Buyers.

Fashion Police of edibles
Uniqueness stomping Keenly!
When Veggies weird and funny Fruits
Are thrown away Routinely.

The Unconventional Plant Product,
A Proper Nutrient Donor
Empathy trees drop fruits of Health
In every Shape and Colour

* In wealthy countries, fruit and veg. crop that does not meet retailer standards on size/shape/colour is being thrown away despite multiple hunger crises globally and a heavy toll on the environment. In general, it is estimated that by 2030 the amount of wasted food will reach 66 tonnes per second.

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bm11dN42Eig
May 2019

Symphony

SMIRNON, SMIRNOFF
Spoiler alert for truths:
Something’s about to happen

Startled and Sketchy audiences
Seize & desist your clappin’

Stranded, the capsized ego’s
STUCK!

S.O.S. praying to nothing

Sometimes it takes a single
“bleh”
To drop a stupid pattern