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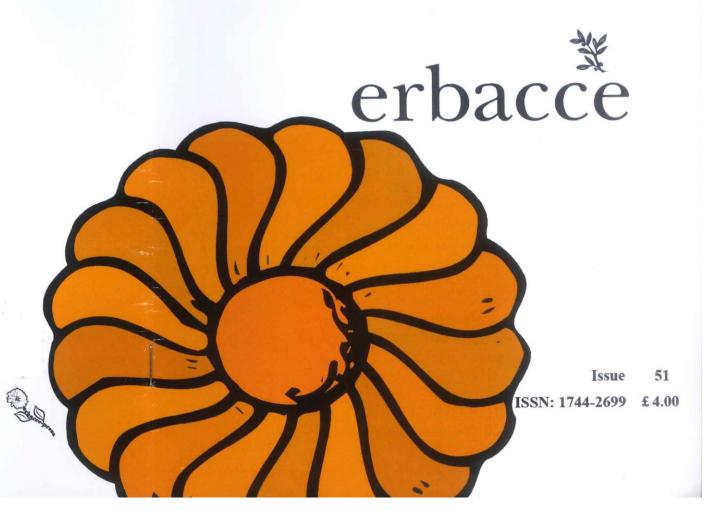
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## Ho Cheung Lee: Happy Valley, Hong Kong

## Ripples

No one knows it. They can't see it. It stays a burnt scar.

The puddle from Tuesday's night rain devours the top of the fabric shelter at the football pitch.

Rotten black from the high distance like some malignant tumour on the aged skin. The convex surface now goes down to hold the reservoir.

(A bone must be missing somewhere.)

The patch incurable though the host may survive another year before the soup turns acidic.

There is no escape – It spreads and erodes and mutates and grows in its cancerous path.

And then a sparrow perches by the dead lake, pecks for a sip and exits as the ripples embark.

## Thursday Memorandum

I haven't yet learnt how to paint her gaunt torso with pride or prepared for the funeral couplets my monologue for you this time.

The fifteen-minute clip, your words improvised as you discovered the scorching joy of rebirth, playing the blending shades from a disparaging leaf just before it goes.

You dug yourself up from her grave to join a role you got your name, some thirty-odd years. It's never a surprise to me how you find yourself acting in your mid-eighties — just the self-provoked laughter, the chattering from the hefty traffic against your clogged voice, the abuse of classical Chinese verses, your similes of this dream-woven net collecting sparkling dust from the deflated moon.

And I,

And I coffined the cancer-eaten echeveria; her flesh blades desiccated one after another like decaying days.

Twilight slows you down with all that you have lived behind your film-grained shadow.

The dead plant still whispers in the black plastic bag.