

Selected Works by BA

Kodokushi

Once your brain wasn't empty
stuffed your head full of dreams
But time tends to tear
Things apart at the seams
You leave your days empty
while your fate's none the fitter
Your sights on the end
make you hardened and bitter

The souls drift away
and leave you unseen
With no tasks left to do
You meld with the screen
Your days spent in silence
No company begotten
And your mind loses color
your existence forgotten

Now he knocks on your door
the first in awhile
Asking after a check
To add to the pile
With no heed to his call
he opens the gate
He pays you a visit
three years too late

Insomnia

Insomnia sings me a song every night
She bats away the dark like I'm a child again
I'm terrified of my own devices
Stuff my brain full of silicon
So I can't hear my own thoughts
Listen to some sad songs and
Reach through the plastic
Clinging to any empathy I can find
I can't go until I know
What everyone else is thinking
But I'll make it through
I always do
I just gotta last
Until the sun comes up

Imprint

I ate up my best friend
bowed my head and swallowed him whole
in a last ditch
to staple him
on to me as if I earned it
as if it makes right
the shit that I say light
and when I shuffle off
back into the congress
he spins and he shouts out
"It's all in your head, man!"
and I think that I'd hear him
if I ever just slowed down

Jisei

The man was eclipsed
He cries out for connection
left reaching, grasping

He doesn't exist
his whole heart is screaming for
something never had

His spirit is strong
and he goes along fighting
For a theme he can pull

His efforts, broken
the end gives a chance
to make it pretty

Frozen Ground

The frost sets in
The soil turns rigid
The ground cracks and bends underfoot

Dreadfully breaks
Horribly pops
Under pressure it wails and shrieks

Screams so loud that it pierces the night
But the grip is so strong
It returns to its steel

Two Step

Cell falling slowly
Slowly to the slaughter
Slowly to the kill
Breathing into next year

Shatter the soul
with my slow trudging boots
Dodging human skulls
Breathing

Take it all from you now
Separate from your crown
dissipate in the crowd
Breathe in tonight

Stare down the steel eye
Pack up your affairs
Block out the noise
Breathe

I'll breathe into next year

My Friend was Murdered Yesterday

I remember playing on the beach of Lake Superior with my cousin
I was probably about 10 at the time, he was a few years older
I had a GI Joe toy with a hang glider
While playing, we accidentally threw him into that vast sea
We searched for a while, but we couldn't find him
We stood on the beach and saluted while we hummed taps

He was stabbed five times
By a drug addict
Who was a former Marine
I saw him that morning
The last thing he told me was how he fucked an ugly girl on Tinder

He was one of the funniest guys I ever knew
He was always telling us stories about girls he was with
His delivery was perfect
He could dance like a goddamn legend
He helped out directing my working party
No one told him to, he just did

My cousin and I are both Marines now
Ten years later
And last night I saluted while taps played
And I faced the sea