

Politics



Debbie Harman

I THINK I'M DIFFERENT
FROM THESE OTHER
TOURISTS.



? BECAUSE I'M
NOT WEARING
ELEPHANT PANTS
AND SHIRTS?



I DID NOT GO AND SEE THE GHOST-TOWN
OF FRENCH COLONIALISM ON BOKOR HILL
STATION - I WAS TOO BUSY WEIGHING UP THE
COST OF THE TOUR AND THE TIME I HAD.

MUCH BIGGER THAN THIS, - ANGKOR WATT
STOOD IN MY MIND AS THE SYMBOL OF THE
RISE AND FALL OF POWER.
and Cambodia was being grabbed &
eaten by something much more voracious than
Colonialism from the inside out.

IT WOULD BE ~~UN~~FAIR TO SAY
THAT THE TRAIN WAS A SIT-COM OF
STEREOTYPES
SET ABOUT
JUDGING.

THE JOLLY
ENGLISH
EX-PAT
WHO'D
"BEEN HERE
FOR 18
YEARS," WITH
TWO CHILDREN
AND A 'GRUMPY
CAMBODIAN WIFE.

THE AMERICAN (PERHAPS - WAR VETERAN)
WITH HIS SCRAGGLY BEARD).





THE EX-PAT'S KID
WAS FOCUSSED ON
SHOOTING EVERYONE
PARTICULARLY A BABY
WITH HIS LOUD TOY GUN.
THE AMERICAN ("VET")
INTERVENED.

THEN I SAW THE ENGLISH EX-PAT
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT IN TOWN. BAR

I DISLIKED
THE TOWN



IT SEEMED TO
EXIST IN THE
CENTRE
PURELY FOR
THE
WHITE
CAUCASIAN
MEN
SITTING

LANGUIDLY IN ITS BAR FRONTS.
LOOKING OUT ONTO THE STREET.

I WONDERED AGAIN WHAT HIS BUSINESS WAS
AND I DISLIKED HIM EVEN MORE FOR BEING
THERE - EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW HIM FROM A
BAR OF SOAP!

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THESE
ARE
EVERY
WHERE.

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WHAT
DO THEY
MEAN?

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AMONGST

OF

OR / AND

CULTURE

OUR

BODIES

IN

THE SHAPES

OF OUR

ANCESTORS

THE WASH

CONTEMPORARY
'WESTERN'

WE MOVE

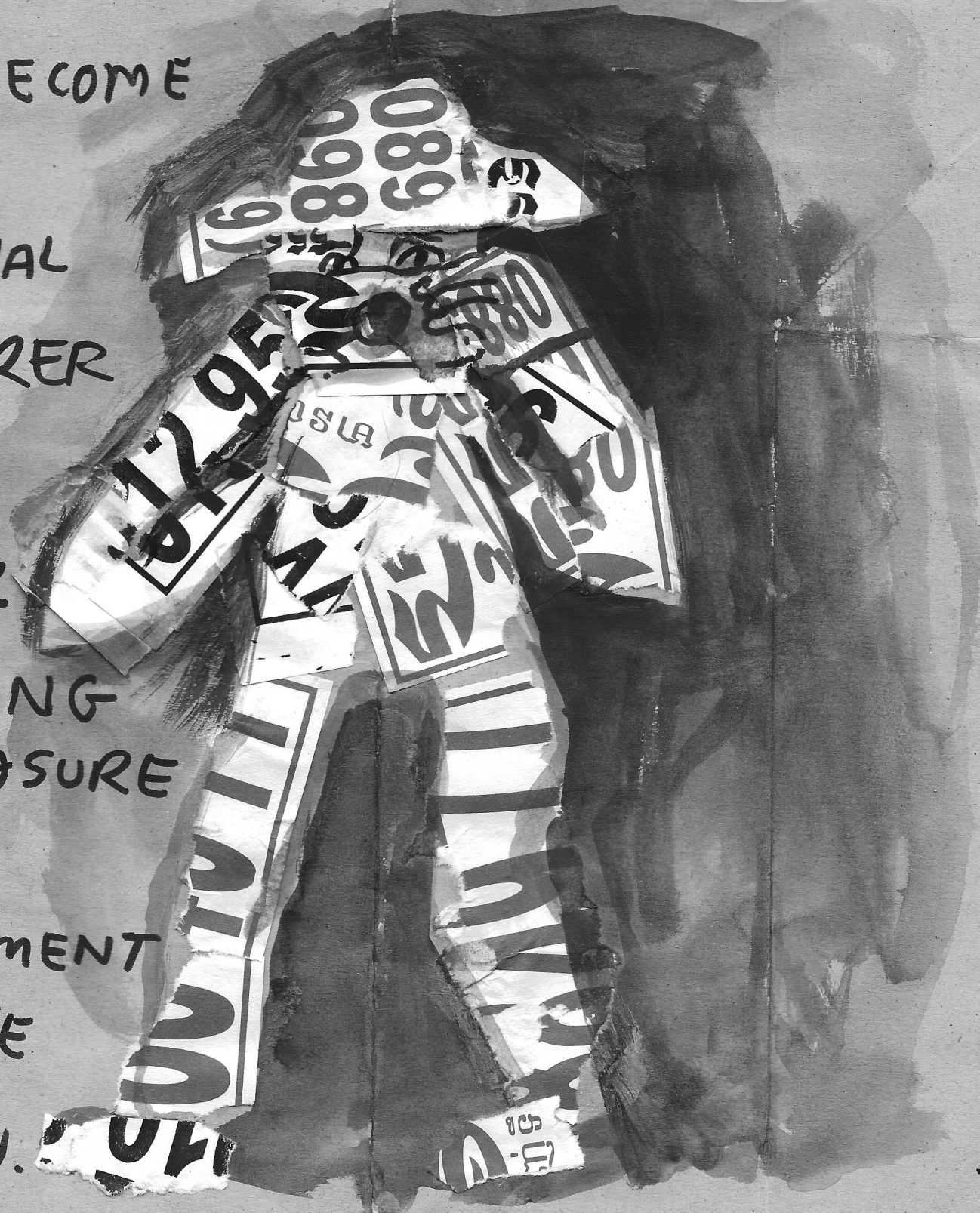
*we move our bodies
in the shapes of our
ancestors.*

*we grasp + replay
where we came from.*

I BECOME
A
COLONIAL
EXPLORER

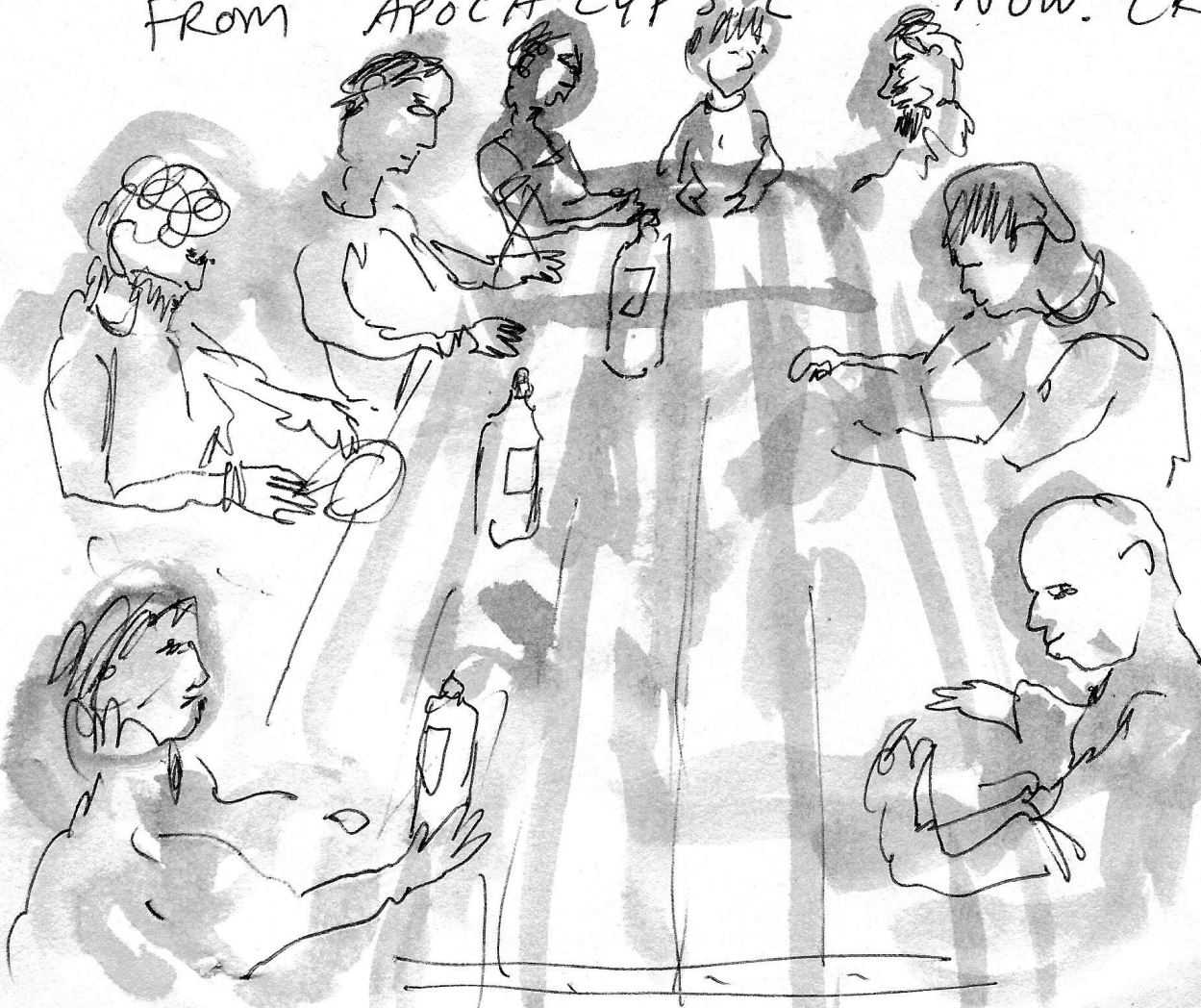
I
WALK
SEEKING
TREASURE

I
DOCUMENT
WRITE
&
DRAW.



THE REST OF THE TOUR

DID NOT REALISE WE WERE
RE-ENACTING THE PLANTATION SCENE
FROM APOCALYPSE NOW. (REDUX).





EARLIER THAT DAY, OUR TOUR GUIDE HAD STOPPED THE TUKTUK AT A LAKE, TELLING US ITS HISTORY AND LAUNCHING INTO A TWENTY MINUTE POLITICAL SPEECH.



THE MAN ON THE
TRAIN WITH THE
HAWK NOSE TOLD
ME HIS THEORY
ABOUT THE CURRENT
WAR IN EUROPE.
HE HAD FAMILY
ON BOTH SIDES
IN WORLD WAR
TWO. HE FEARED
WHAT WAR-MONGERS
WOULD DO NEXT.

HIS GUIDE
WAS A
QUIET MAN
WHO LOOKED
ELSEWHERE
BUT LISTENED.



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