

Brian Potiki

Poem Notes

Ever since reading Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* I've loved Beat literature, especially for the emphasis the Beats placed on spontaneity and improvisation. *First thought best thought* - Jack Kerouac. *If the poet's mind is shapely the poem will come out shapely* - Allen Ginsberg. But I don't admire their poetry so much – the only one I love is Gregory Corso. Also Philip Larkin and Bob Orr, and novelists like Kingsley Amis and John Updike.

Poet Notes

Brian Potiki comes from a working class background. No books at home, only music (jazz and pop and rock). He discovered literature late in high school then completed a BA (Eng. Lit.) and became an avid reader and writer. He has pursued a career as writer/performer of Māori themes in the English language and is currently writing a biography of older Māori poet Rowley Habib based on their regular correspondence (no emails – he still uses a manual typewriter – mainly handwritten) during the past thirty years.

E-mail: thetravellingtuatara@clear.net.nz

Paint Rotorua red with poetry

so that goats, ignoring the
goatherd, untethered,
heads raised, come down
from the mountain,
and lovers on the run
like Hinemoa and Tutanekai
feel safe to seek shelter

so bankers, merchants,
health professionals, councillors,
firemen and realtors get
to stand on the margins
for once, observing

paint it.
let
lines from songs
be painted on billboards
instead of Tui Brewery sarcasm
(eg. "*Nature / Cover me*")

serve poetry in cafes,
Thai poetry in Thai restaurants
and so on. try painting epics
on all the streets between the
Lake Front and Whakarewarewa

give all boys words,
not guns – and girls words,
not dolls - to play with
but most important,
fill the luxury hotels
with poets and
give each a key to
the hotel wine cellar

My favourite maori party

the beer party where
none fight
& where some
fuck on the lawn

where none
seduce the
high-school age daughter
& others
sing
'til
dawn