



going dry

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adventures in soberland

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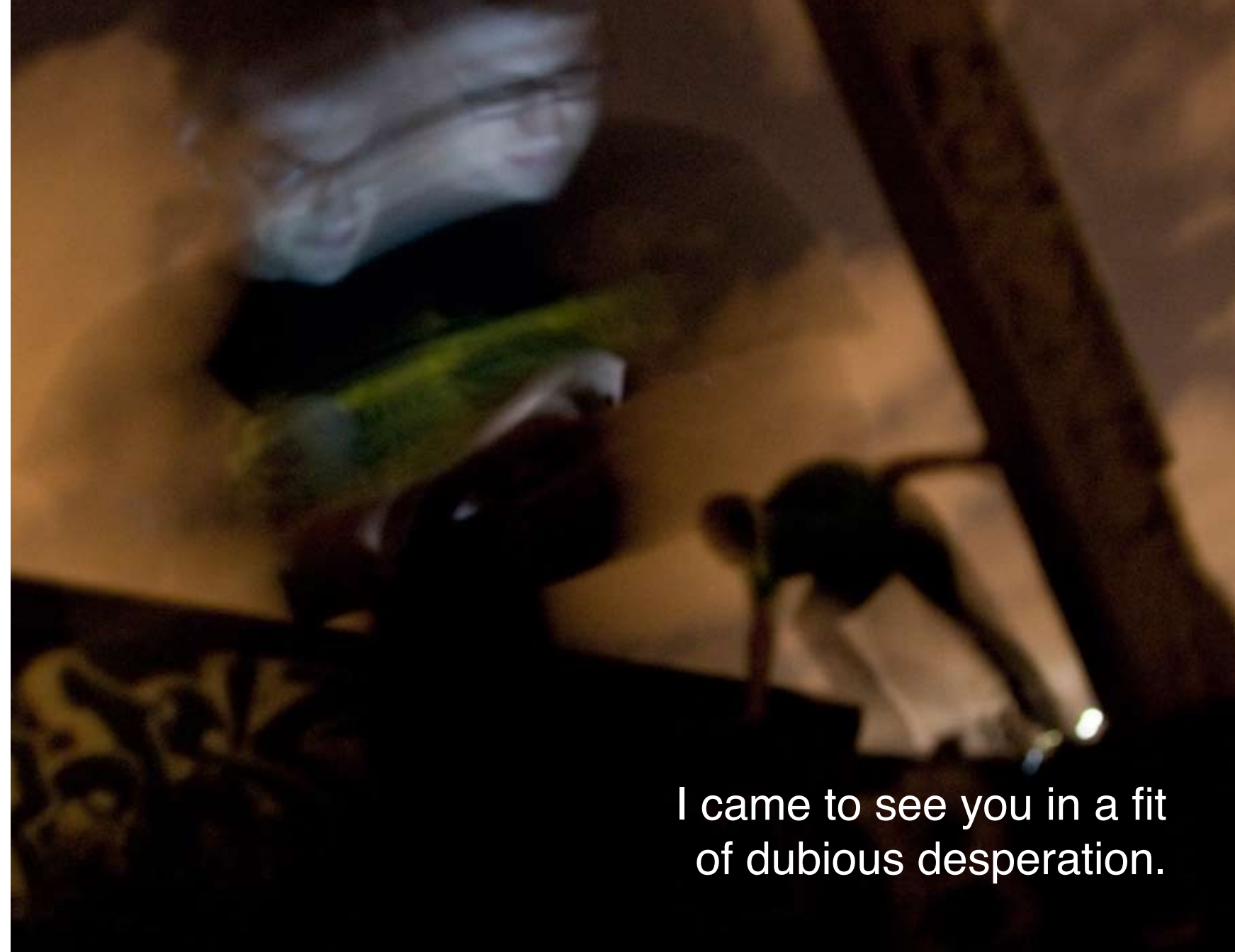
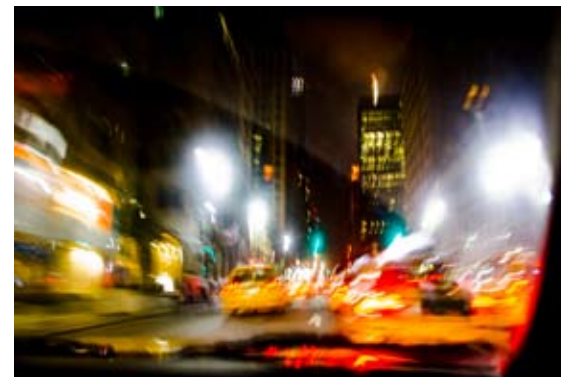
stephanie lim
august 2009



For Dr. Lane

Somehow you always
made me laugh.

In Soberland, that's not
an easy thing to do.



I came to see you in a fit of dubious desperation.

I was thinking a lot of things.

I was highly doubtful.

You don't know me and what I've been through. This hasn't helped me in the past. I'm tired and afraid. I don't think this is the right thing for me so I'm skeptical - if I don't understand what's going on - how can you? If I don't know what it is how could I hope you could? Maybe it's not important at all. Maybe it's not for me. It's just a stupid thing that I'll learn to survive with. I don't get it but there are a lot of things I have yet to understand but kind of thrive on...



I'm used to going alone.

I don't know why I came back.

You were nice, I suppose.
And calm. Very calm.

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skeptical - if I don't understand what's going on -
how can you? If I don't know what it is how could I
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You understood that I liked to go places.
You encouraged me to explore a new place.

I trusted you.

So I went to Soberland.



I checked in with you along the way. I'd never traveled alone before and you made it easier.

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Because Soberland was a lonely place.

There were times I wanted to leave.

You kept pointing out those things I was learning. You reassured me that travelers sometimes get homesick. That this was all normal.

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You called me brave.



I kept voyaging, sending you
postcards from abroad.



It was less lonely that way.



Most of the postcards said the same thing
but you read them all anyway.

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It was probably the longest winter of my life.

I hate the cold.

I began to see that Soberland
was really not all that scary.
Or difficult. Or different.

It kind of felt like I had been there forever.

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Sometimes Soberland surprised
me with its brilliance.



It I hadn't gone there, I would never have understood what was making me so afraid.

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André Gide said:
One does not discover new lands
without consenting to lose sight
of the shore for a very long time.



Thanks for taking me there.
It's one of those places that you
would never visit by yourself.

And now that I've been there,
I know I can always go back.

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I have my sights set on higher ground now instead of just staying afloat.

Thanks for always being in my corner.



Photography Notes

Cover
San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

P1
CMC Office

P2-3
Drunkennes in NYC

P6
Freedom Tunnel, UWS

P11
Graffiti
DUMBO, Brooklyn

P14
Highbridge Aqueduct
Washington Heights, Manhattan

P18
PS 145, Harlem

P20-21
Seaview Farm Colony
Staten Island

Flushing Bay
College Point, Queens

Abandoned construction
Park Slope, Brooklyn

Abandoned warehouse
Staten Island

P24
Seaview Farm Colony
Staten Island

P29
Renwick Smallpox Hospital
Roosevelt Island

P33
Marina
Charleston, SC

P36
Air rifle at a rooftop party
Bushwick, Brooklyn

P39
Rumble on the River
Pier 84, Hudson River Park