

*press release*

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*I really must congratulate you on your attention to detail*

Cooper Gallery DJCAD  
Dundee, Scotland  
2012

*Taking a Stroll with the Lift Operator*

live performance in collaboration with Oliver Input, 2013

audio link: <https://soundcloud.com/oliverinput/taking-a-stroll-with-the-lift>

## I.

If a car is stuck and there are no passengers in the elevator, which of the following is TRUE?

- A. The rectangular shaped interior is decorated with coloured images and occasionally the lift operator turns the volume of the radio up or down?
- B. The car will automatically return to service.
- C. The Door will eventually open, a stranger will enter and address the lift operator.

“Excuse me Mr., do you know what I am here for?”

“I have come for the photograph, which arrived and was handed to you 20 minutes ago. Do you have it?”

“Hand it to me!”

“Yes”, the lift operator answers, as a personal note.

The stranger now insisting: “It is indeed an important piece of evidence! Did you know of the depiction? Or did you happen to see ..?”

“To be honest,” the lift operator interrupts, “I have no knowledge of it.”

Now impatient, the stranger demands: “Oh, answer my question, or better still show me the photograph.”

“It will tell you nothing!”

## II.

The elevator stops the door opens to reveal a sign on the wall that reads 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Two passengers, engaged in a conversation enter.

“It depends of course on the perspective,” the one says.

“If you look at the evolutionary history of the Giraffe and ask yourself what caused her long neck. One explanation of course is: The giraffes with long necks were fitter as they could reach higher branches of trees.”

“Or, you could say they developed long necks because they had long legs, in order to be able to drink, and long legs because they had to protect themselves from lions.”

“4<sup>th</sup> floor,” the operator announces. The door opens, both walk out.

## III.

“Well,” the operator interrupts the silence.

“Sometimes I wonder. I am pressing buttons. The fingertip that points presses and eventually means something? Maybe I am just a visualization of a gesture set back in motion.”

The stranger wonders, “What are you trying to tell me? And, again, what happened to the photograph?”

“The photograph,” the lift operator notes, “once it is withdrawn from its usual blah, blah it touches me. By paying the prize of de-carnation, the image wins on fascination. I guess it lost its identity.”

Stranger: “So sarcasm now?”

“You are as much in the dark as I am, aren't you?”

The Operator (continues):

“Look the view from here is very limited.  
I move in two directions, up or down.  
My profession is about to become redundant as we speak.  
I might not be able to decode, read and understand once I step out of here,  
so I guess we reflect on the nature of our own spectacles.  
And if my spectacles have a green tint then everything I perceive has a green tint. At  
least I know how to perceive the world, don't you think?”

“Ah,” the stranger, becoming impatient, ironically comments,

“Well, I had to get in contact with Netflix the other day, who advised me to talk to  
Macintosh because my computers software is too old to update Silverlight's latest plug  
in. So I could not watch any movies. I was waiting for hours on the phone line instead of  
minutes. In the end, Macintosh advised me that I should buy a new computer and inform  
Netflix about the problem.”

“So ,lets not get confused, and let's look at the facts we have.  
A photograph, which I still have not seen, a directed rectangular frame,  
but within a field that corresponds to nothing in nature or mental imagery.

Visualization is something completely different from depiction. Imaginative state of mind.”

“We cannot move until one is prepared to sacrifice their reputation.”

A voice from the radio interrupts.

The Operator turns the volume up!

“Another Question, I would like to ask you,” while coming from the radio:

“If photos could take away one thing from your big acceptance speech on  
Thursday night, what do you fear most that could be? My belief is that we have  
everything we need to lead the world in prosperity and peace.  
That to lose ...”

“Turn this off,” the stranger demands.

I would interrupt just to defuse the confusion in the room, but decide not to.

#### IV.

I lower my eyes to the floor and remember when I left the house of my friends the other night after a late dinner.

I stepped outside into the hallway to put on my shoes, when my left toe, not yet completely inside, hit a soft resistance.

My reflexes make me pull out my foot right away.

I freeze become preoccupied by an already established incomprehensibility surrounded by voluntary offers of possible explanations.

A cockroach leaves the shoe.

At home the contact made with the insect echoes on my skin.

It persistently pounds, wants to be acknowledged and called an imprint of some kind.

Let me ask you another question, the stranger announces.

A lift operator sees a woman who is holding a Camera run from an elevator and out of the building.

The MOST important thing for the Operator to try to remember right after the incident is

- A. The date of the incident
- B. The make or brand of the Camera
- C. Which elevator car the woman was riding
- D. What the woman looked like

The woman told me something rather strange happened to her. One afternoon she woke up and walked to the window to look out into the garden and saw that everything was covered in hoarfrost but a few hours later it had all turned back to normal.