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BETWEEN VISION AND FORM
Luca Can

Blank space of the paper, I come to you not asking, only telling. It is so and so and so. Blankness extends its invitation to potential. As blankness disappears, Tension settles.

Where does this Tension come from? A strong urge (innere Anspannung) to create. From idea/Vision uninterrupted to finished drawing/sculpture/image/product/Form. The only way I know how to work. A manic drive, comes in waves, leaves me worn-out, spent, tired. But the Tension is gone, for some time anyway.

I always work directly from the hand, and I work with great speed and ease when I am under this afore-mentioned Tension, chasing after a vision: A blurry shape and a sense of colour arises from some inner place, and I am guided by a force which pulls with great attraction towards a form I do not yet exactly know. The circumstances when such visions have arisen before are varied; they come most easily when I am in a state of calm, or in transition from one state to another.

It is a special type of Tension, one which breaks through the Always-There-Tension (the subtle motivator of existential dread/ or subtly motivated by existential dread?).

This Tension, the Always-There-Tension, results from External matters; it is uncomfortable. I would prefer not to, but you get used to it.

This other Tension, this heaven-sent, electrifying, soul-and-matter-moving, thorn-in-my-side, familiar feeling, cold and much loved friend, comes from somewhere Interior, some recess of the soul.

Sometimes the timing is unfortunate; dark of night, tossing and turning for hours. But it is always welcome.

Tension is a vector, A to B. The secret to creating is the adding of vectors of Tension, pulling, pulling, pulling. Change of direction, or return to beginning (there is no such thing).

Tension is a process. The end could also just be an intermission. You can always add another vector of Tension. This gives to the process as much validation as to the result.

A

B

A 2019-12-09T20:58:36

B 2019-12-09T21:10:15

C

D

C 2019-12-09T21:40:24

D 2019-12-12T20:07:18, 100 × 164 cm,
Running from? (2019), Acrylic on canvas

Tension is projection. Expected outcome in combination with uncertainty of success magnifies/ minisculises:

$$T_{res} = (\overrightarrow{AB} * x) \wedge y$$

T_{res} being Resultant Tension.
A being point of departure (Vision) and
B being point of arrival (Form).
x being Expectation and
y being Uncertainty.

The effective Resultant Tension can be skewed and distorted completely, depending on the degree of Uncertainty. With increasing Uncertainty, Tension grows exponentially.

An idea is like a drop of water. Let me try to explain: A drop of rain falls from the sky, but it does not come from nowhere: it comes from someplace else, sometime before. This is a closed system after all! Held together by surface Tension: As it falls, its shape is clear, definite, delicate. You can see through it, it distorts your view of the world, skews perspective a bit to one side or the other. But an idea is so very fragile. You cannot really catch it. If you do, its form is changed. The drop of rain that you catch in the palm of your hand shatters! Its contents all remain, but the original clarity of shape is lost. An idea which you try to capture and make conscious is changed, for better, or for worse. You cannot grasp a pure idea. That is not to say that you should not try anyway. In this attempt to make Form and Vision meet, Tension lies.

Then again, what is the justification to put all this on the shoulders of Tension? Is it not all too deliberate? Maybe, yes. But I speak freely and honestly. This lovely Tension has served as my point of reference, my anchor on this expedition/experiment.

Simply said, Tension is the line connecting idea/Vision and outcome/Form.

Tension is the vehicle in my creative process; or perhaps just the fuel of that vehicle. I am still not quite sure.

Perhaps this Tension is of no interest to you. Too personal, I can imagine. The Tension will stay and come and go in either case.

Luca Okay Can, born 1996 in Samedan, Engadin. Lives and works in Zürich.