

Hypocrite

Free Hearty¹
Indonesia

You raise your hand high
and show your sweetest smile
then say “I absolutely agree!”
in front of me.

You clench your fist
deep in your pocket
your mouth murmur
like a maggot and say “No!”
at my back!

¹ Free Hearty was born in Kutacane, Aceh but now lives in Jakarta. She teaches Culture and Literature at STBA-LIA and AL-Azhar University Jakarta. Her writings have appeared in numerous collections of short stories and poems.

Old Ladies

Free Hearty

you stand in front of the mirror
staring at your own profile
blurred in your eyes
wrinkles on your face
everything now changed
are you worried?
are you disappointed?
afraid of being menopausal?
afraid of losing your youth?
why should you?

you stare at your profile again
your eyes keep a lot of stories
your face printed a lot of histories
that is your power now
you who have led a long life
that had weaved many stories
and many tales
you who had created solutions
who gave birth to many creations
you still have the power now
your experiences no one can buy
making it worthwhile for those around you.

stand up still
the more you do
the more you share

age is just another number
aging is just a process