

## Michael Krueger

### *Carried Away by the Sea*

An exhibition of paintings on the theme of nostalgia and existential terror.

*Everybody needs memories. They keep the wolf of insignificance from the door. – Saul Bellow 1*

Forever begins, again  
There is in out, there is an in  
Nostalgia and existential terror  
I can't recognize anything  
*don't worry about tomorrow.... we'll get hell to pay 2*

There's a highway in South Dakota, it leads to an abandoned house and when you get there you don't know who you are, it's not important, so you forget to remember. You might look around and wonder why you arrived, and that's all you might do. Turn around and go back home, back home to who you are, who you might have been.

*It takes a train to cry 3*

To be carried away by the sea  
Alone at the disco with confetti in my hair  
Nothing has changed, nothing is the same  
Now my charms are all overthrown, And what strength I have's mine own, Which is most faint. 4

My brother asked me if I had heard the term hauntology, a theory wherein the past haunts the future, the future is altered before it begins. I said, "you mean like the light of a train."

"Yes, I suppose, if you think of the train as the past, and the light is projecting on to the future."

I thought of the projections as images being cast on the future, multiple images all happening at the same time, and sometimes flickering rapidly.

Introspection comes as I am - *drifting too far from the shore.*

*1 Saul Bellow, Mr. Sammler's Planet (1970, p. 190).*

*2 ACDC, Have a Drink on Me, Track 8, Back in Black, Atlantic Records, 1980, LP.*

*3 Bob Dylan, It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry, Track 3, Highway 61 Revisited, Columbia, 1965, LP.*

*4 Tempest, Act 5, Epilogue (Prospero).*

*5 Charles Earnest Moody, Drifting Too Far from Shore, Sebren Music, 1924, Lyrics.*