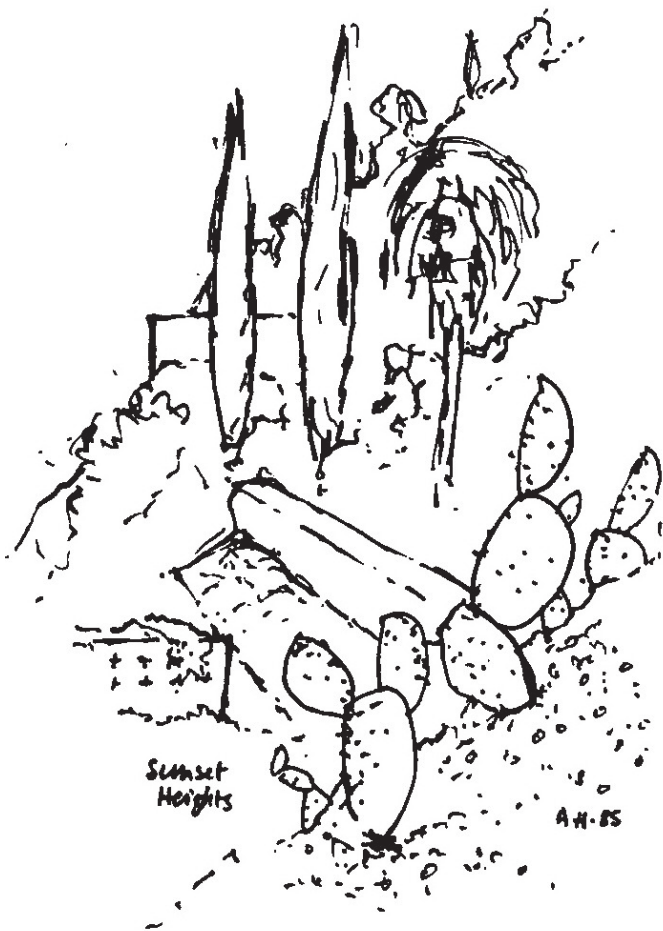


## Holiday Snaps



Sunset  
Heights

A.H. 85

# Adrian Henri

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## Holiday Snaps

for Lis

*'Black marigolds  
in the desert of a long-lost summer.'*



*In the empty streets of this city  
it is 9.35 and the images are dying  
beneath broken barriers at football-stadiums  
inside television sets everywhere.*

Lost in the dark Mogodon forests  
of morning. The whirring of a milk float  
an electric mole humming to itself  
in the darkness. The little pig you made me  
three Christmasses ago still stands  
on the bedside table. The cassette-alarm  
that alarmed us to Pastoral morning.  
dawn Rhine journeys, stolen.  
Only the travelling alarm-clock  
that follows me everywhere remains,  
faithful as Greyfriars Bobby.

1.

Sunset Heights :  
Heaped-up  
cactus. ground ivy,  
white walls. hibiscus  
and cypresses  
piled stark up  
against implacable blue.

2.

At Universal Studios  
We ride the Glam Tram.  
it conjures wonders for us;  
icetunnels. flash floods.  
past the Orca. the WELCOME TO AMITY sign.  
the giant shark attacks;  
later I pose by his concrete carcass.  
proud as Hemingway :  
against a backdrop of the San Fernando Valley  
brown in your white shorts  
behind red-and-black umbrellas  
you eat a frozen chocolate banana.

3.

*'Entre Mobile*

*et Galveston'* . Between Santa Monica  
and Venice beach the musclemen  
pump sunshine for you  
in the iron heat. Palmtrees, breakdancers.  
SEE CONAN THE DESTROYER written on the sky.  
Today the airship saying FUJI FILM  
that spied you there in your grey striped bikini  
drifts aimlessly across the Mersey.



4.

*Guacamole.* Ladies dressed like  
embroidered postcards.

Mariachi bands, treelights.

*Salsa Verde, Quesadas.*

We celebrate your birthday with  
*Sangre de Toros.*

5..

At Disneyland  
a huge blue bear waltzes you off  
into Donald's Birthday Parade:  
we are whirled in the dark  
through artificial constellations:  
on Tom Sawyer's raft  
you perch on a keg of Dynamite  
as the riverboat goes by.

6.

Tears like New York summer rain  
bleak lights beneath an awning  
on Blecker Street.

7.

Graffiti city. Painted shadows  
lurk round corners. Pacman, Gumby  
haunt the walls. WORMS HAVE FIVE HEARTS  
declares an East Village storefront.  
Wanting to watch your name  
on every train that goes by.

8.

Harry the cat  
stands on the back of the sofa  
in the tiny room in Leroy Street,  
scans us relentlessly.

9.

In Washington Square  
you stare entranced  
at the squirrels.

10.

Music in the darkened park :  
tiny picnic-lights blossom,  
effortless as skyscrapers.

11.

In Bloomingdale's  
you buy knickers with BLOOMIES on them.  
JUNE IS LATEX LUST MONTH  
says the sex-shop window on Times Square.  
BLACK FLAG ROACH MOTEL  
¡ Las cucarachas entran  
pero NO PUEDAN salir !  
the subway-sign tells us,  
The Caliente Cab Company  
brings us frozen Margaritas;  
Alexander Calder's  
tiny metal circus-world  
goes through its paces for you.

12.

Last  
late night drinks with Ed  
goodbyes said  
to Roscoe  
in Kelly's, last place we go  
on our way home  
every night.

' I want to know what love is'  
implores the muzak in the morning bank  
' I want you to show me'

bright-eyed speedwell in a Cheshire field  
forget-you-not

'Cryin Mr. Mailman  
any mail for me today' Chicago blues  
in windy city Liverpool

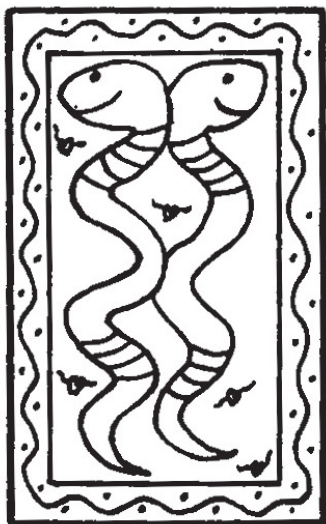
primrose and grey  
walls of a Normandy bedroom  
cliffs of Le Pollet, rock pools of Pourville

remember

*The leaking tap in the bathroom  
wheezes away to itself  
like an old man dying.  
Your white toothbrush still on the shelf,  
Its white travelling case no longer travelling,  
Spreads slowly like a dying sunflower  
from a summer of neglect.*

Tears like neon city rain

Lost sunset heights  
of summer.



**Drawing by Lis Burgoyne**

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**ADRIAN HENRI** led ' Liverpool Scene ' poetry/rock group 1967-70. Since then freelance poet/ painter/ performer and occasional singer, songwriter and playwright.

He has exhibited paintings widely and was a John Moores Exhibition Prizewinner in 1972. A major retrospective exhibition will be touring in 1986-87.

Apart from 'The Mersey Sound' and 'New Volume' with Brian Patten and Roger McGough, ge has produced seven books of poems. His collected poems will be produced by Alison & Busby in 1986.

His first book for children ' Eric the Punk Cat' is to be followed by a sequel 'Eric and Frankie in Las Vegas in 1986. He is currently working on a book of poems for children and 'In A Grove', an adaption of a Japanese folk-tale for BBC TV.

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