

## I. Where the love is

When it comes to love, it matters where you are writing from. And it does make a difference whether you are 3617 miles, 932 km or 482 m away. The problem with distance is that there always is too much of it. That is why, when Iris Murdoch muses that “If you long and long for someone’s company you love them”,<sup>1</sup> it makes sense to take the length she goes through in time and space literally: as a double longing that seems more about growing even longer and extending its duration than about actually reducing the physical divide. Keeping a reduced distance, then, is what it might be about, this thing called love — not what happens if someone happens to be close, when Grindr or Tinder tells you so.

The word longing in this occupation of ‘wanting’ and wanting it badly, not just for one night but a lot of them, encapsulates the dangers of love as a mental disturbance, as one of the clichés goes that we are used to describe the phenomenon. “If you get things when you really want them, you go crazy. Everything becomes distorted when something you really want is sitting in your lap” as Andy Warhol puts it in his *Philosophy*.<sup>2</sup> That is why, too, love has to be far away. For the (very) young,<sup>3</sup> the beautiful, the naive. In the future, the past. On another continent.

Love is in Italy. And it always needs a bridge. Even for the dogs: the line of spaghetti that slowly grows shorter and shorter so that Lady and the Tramp<sup>4</sup> can kiss, as if by surprise, is Disney’s comic counterpart to Félix González-Torres’ *Untitled (Perfect Lovers)*.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, the famous Spaghetti Kiss might have been a lot of kids’ first encounter with the concept of love.

So love has to be an accident, coincidence, happenstance. But what else? What other options are there? If there are billions of us, the chances are high that we might match with many more than the One. All the same, almost all of us seem to simultaneously reckon with the insanely sincere conviction that (*of course!*) it had to be You, at least that time and moment, that place, that year, when you fell for each other.<sup>6</sup> How can a summer love be the one you have always waited for?

If love was a 12th century courtly invention, the poetic licence of bards and troubadours, it is good to know that the “princess<sup>7</sup> lointaine”<sup>8</sup> of 2020, with all the longing the word *lointaine* entails (at least etymologically), is by now at least gender neutral. To know that these days everyone is entitled to a literary holiday — on and off the page and screen.

Of course, this is how the machines that nowadays help us make love, Grindr, Okcupid, Tinder and Romeo and all those other apps, keep us young, desiring and desirable, *handed* over to an old, romantic addiction, nostalgically tied to other places and next times, virtually within our reach.

They are the spectre that haunts us —erotically, digitally, algorithmically— and even more so in times of (re)confinement. This March, when the businesses behind them exposed their true selves as they started sending out warnings that ‘meeting in person’ could be lethal and should be avoided at all costs — what better way to delegitimize themselves? Viewed sceptically, the disclaimers seemed more about the companies’ liability concerns than their users’ health, let alone their love life, presently made absent: which is actually what happens when somebody ghosts you. But that is another story.

Robin Waart

Vienna, Amsterdam, Paris, London, Sheffield, New York, Toronto, Berlin

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<sup>1</sup> Iris Murdoch, *The Sea, the Sea*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979 (1978<sup>1</sup>), p. 39

<sup>2</sup> Andy Warhol, *The Philosophy of Andy Warhol*. New York and London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975, p. 97

<sup>3</sup> “Love is for the very young”, *The Bad and the Beautiful*, Vincente Minelli (US 1952), 01:11:58

<sup>4</sup> *Lady and the Tramp*, Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson and Hamilton Luske (US 1955)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.moma.org/collection/works/81074?artist\\_id=2233&page=1&sov\\_referrer=artist](https://www.moma.org/collection/works/81074?artist_id=2233&page=1&sov_referrer=artist)

1991, Clock, Paint on wall, 35.6 x 71.2 x 7 cm,

<sup>6</sup> “I guess I had nothing to do that weekend so I decided to fall in love”, *North by Northwest*, Alfred Hitchcock (US 1959), 01:43:56

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Princess>

<sup>8</sup> Samuel Dresden, ‘La princesse lointaine’, in id., *De literaire getuige (The literary witness)*. The Hague: Bert Bakker/Daamen, 1959, pp. 64-85. Cf. also Connie Palmens *Echt contact is niet de bedoeling*. Amsterdam: Prometheus, 2000



## **II. *One time first time last time***

### **Presence and absense**

This happens when someone ghosts you  
But that is another

us a spectre haunting us  
When we choose too and leaving us no choice

A spectre that haunts us, even more so now, digitally,

And keeps us young  
Summer loves  
A psychosis

Addiction

The problem with distance  
And closeness

The lengths you go through, she goes through

It happens to make a difference  
You happened to be close / time-space

Nothing more (bio)logical than love

Dreams, Spectres

Closeness and distance

### **Presence and absense**

This happens when someone ghosts you  
But that is another

A poet is a 'dichter'  
Poetry activates fantasies

## **Rokas Onceness / Distance & Closeness - which?**

*Time and place*

- I. (2 comes later, end text on II.)
- II.

When it comes to love,  
It matters where you are writing from  
(When push comes to love)

-And it makes a difference whether you are 936 km away or 536 m  
whether you are 3617 miles, 938km/5000 or 482m away

And it does make a difference  
It happenst to make a difference

>Distance  
Not in times of covid  
Apps that tells you how far away you are from someone else  
Can give the wrong idea

### *Love and writing*

Love is stupid  
Unhappines is stupid

### **Quotes**

[Maybe this segment could be called.... "III. Quotes"?]  
insert an image, or a break segment, III. Quotes?  
Warhol about love?

Wimbledon, Richard Loncraine (UK FR 2004), 00.37.40, Love's not just blind, it's bloody  
stupid.JPG  
Crazy, Stupid, Love., Glenn Ficarra & John Requa (US 2002), 00.21.22, Love sucks.JPG

"Unhappiness is stupid."  
Iris Murdoch, *Nuns and Soldiers*. Reprint. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth etc. 1984. (1st  
ed. Chatto & Windus Ltd 1980), p. 463, 472)

**"If you long and long for someone's company you love them."  
(Iris Murdoch, *The Sea, the Sea* (1978 – Penguin 1979), p. 39)**

"The best love is not-to-think-about-it love. Some people can have sex and really let their  
minds go blank and fill up with the sex; other people can never let their minds go blank and  
fill up with the sex, so while they're having the sex they're thinking "Can this really be me?  
Am I really doing this? This is very strange. Five minutes ago I wasn't doing this. In a little  
while I won't be doing it. What would Mom say? How did people ever think of doing this?" So  
the first type of person –the type that can let their minds go blank and fill up with sex [48] and  
not-think-about-it– is better off. The other type has to find something else to relax with and  
get lost in. For me that something else is humor." (*The Philosophy of Andy Warhol* (1975),  
Warhol 1977, pp. 48-49)

"As soon as you stop wanting something you get it. I've found that to be absolutely  
axiomatic." (*The Philosophy of Andy Warhol* (1975), Warhol 1977, p. 23)



“If you get things when you really want them, you go crazy. Everything becomes distorted when something you really want is sitting in your lap.” [*The Philosophy of Andy Warhol (1975)*, Warhol 1977, p. 97]

Verhoeven about clichés

When things are important they take for ever. Or keep on repeating.

Never happen.

Quite broad

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## **II. *One time first time last time***

Text Rokas

Sunday 4 Oct

Love is for the

Naive

Dogs

Film Spagetti Kiss Disney

Love is in Italy

France

Love is a holiday

*Where is (the) love*

(‘when’)

ME

On the page

On an app

Seth - distance - love

Felix Gonzales Torres

And the comic counterpart to Félix

For the naive, the ve

My love

Love is for the (very) young,<sup>9</sup> The naive. For the dogs.

Love is in Italy.

Grindr Keeps you young

literally handing us over to / handing us, literally, to ourselves.

To old addictions, an old addicton

Of course, this is how today's machines for making love

Of course, this is

(contememorary)

love makers/love machines/machines for making love/the new (contemporary, current)  
mechanisms for making love ('making love')

The new love machines, c machines that/to help us make love,

nostalgically tied to other places and next times already in our pocket in our pocket,

(Vacations and the old days when we were... young naive?)

counterpart to the **impossibility/unfeasibility/untimeliness/(a)synchronicity (?)**

**unavoidable asynchronicity (?)**

[unavoidably asynchronous]

he concept of love as a matter of fiction.

A opm: alleen leuk voor jezelf

They are a spectre that haunts us —**erotically**, digitally, algorithmically **promising**—

**Rejections... are the polite form of being a ghost**

Amsterdam, Berlin, London, New York, Paris, Sheffield, Toronto, Vienna, 2020 (alph.)

Vienna, Amsterdam, Paris, London, Sheffield, New York, Toronto, Munich, Dusseldorf,  
Berlin

*Munich, Dusseldorf - Where have I have been in 2020*

<https://www.okcupid.com/>

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<sup>9</sup> [123] *The Bad and the Beautiful*, Vincente Minelli (US 1952), 01.11.58, Love is for the very young. (Lana Turner to Gilbert Ro





Love sucks.



Love's not just blind,  
it's bloody stupid.



### III. *Onceness*

*One time first time last time (Rokas)*

Once is not good enough is (one's good enough)  
11 Sept 2020?

onceness – once in museum –  
new – connected to the idea of 'next, thank you, next'  
an economy of 'use'

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One\\_Hour\\_of\\_Love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Hour_of_Love)  
(24 Nov. 2019)

Once  
Ideally more than once  
Once is enough  
Integrating experience  
5 sep 2019

"It was different from what I expected"  
18 aug 2019

the urge (desire, need, wish) for the unusual, special, unique (once) and the urge to have it  
again, again, again!  
17 june 2019

Leon-letter (Neon)  
Once ness .../  
Counting!

Photography 1x ergens zijn / 1 kans om vast te leggen...

Knowing, realizing something as it is happening (only) 1x  
Another time possible  
Known

Potentie Potentiality

Onceness - one of a kind clothing, no chance of ever finding the same thing again:  
seriality, but limited production as a fact

A good start  
Even if no follow up

Contradiction in terms  
23 May 2019

Isaac: Onceness.. Eenvoudigheid/Simplicity? (>eenmaligheid?) non-recurring events?

I think that it's a kind of a ... contrast with the repetition, but the term you use works

I think of once upon a time as a kind of "once" that lasts and a one night stand as so new / too-new, that repetition has to start somewhere (with 1x)

21 April 2019

Déjà vu: first time and 'previous' time (last) at the same time

19 April 2019

Once....

(upon)

begin. Feb 2019

January 2019

Eenmaligheid Onceness 31 dec

Once upon a time

It happened one

One time

And 1x/1off magazines ...

Die ein(malig)e Umkehrung hat Baselitz-artige Konsequenzen wovon es kein zurück mehr gibt...

3 Feb 2019

Once: boys with dog in tra

Photography as the image of IT (of time?)

Snapchat

Grindr rejections (list)

*Onceness as the opposite of architecture*

9 Feb 2019

**Robin Waart, *Where the Love Is***

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