



Lovely Daze is a curatorial journal of artists' writings and artworks published biannually in limited editions. Our fifth special edition is a project by Mark Borthwick: in pursuit of nothing more than an original sin to let light in.

I started *Lovely Daze* in my mid-twenties during a time when I was traveling almost always and meeting lots of wonderful artists and friends. This experience prompted me to assemble all the beautiful encounters in the journal. Instead of a tight circle of artist community like in Paris in the 20's or New York in the 60's, nowadays the circles have expanded and spread across every corner of the map. As I am approaching my mid-thirties now and more settled in my own life, rather than maintaining lots of acquaintances everywhere, a few deeper friendships have blossomed over the years. A special one is with Mark, whom I met when invited by Hisham, a mutual friend, at a gathering at Mark's house where everyone brought their own instruments and played music together. The house was lit with love and the love travelled through all our senses. There was no separation between the house, the music, the cooking, the incense, the books, the photographs, the family, and all of us. We were all together in love.

In the past year, through life's coincidences, I have been living mostly in Vietnam, a complete new land to me. Though the heavy history of the region may not be easily overlooked, I was also touched by the freshness of the younger generation and the liveliness of a new beginning. I wanted to explore this new experience through *Lovely Daze*. Around the same time, Mark was working on a book on his lovely son Joey. The thought of joining the two ideas came about and I am ever so grateful that Mark and Joey came on the long journey to Vietnam and continued to Laos and Cambodia with our friend Paul. The rest is in this book.

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