

Richard Bartholomew The Art Critic

Act Two, Scene One

37 46 45

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling, as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable,  
As this which now I draw.

Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,  
And such an instrument I was to use,  
Mine eyes are made the fools of the other senses,

Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;  
And on thy blade, and dudgeon, gouts of blood,  
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:

It is the bloody business, which informs  
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world  
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse

The curtain of sleep: witchcraft celebrates  
Pale Hecat's offerings: and wither'd Murther,

Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,  
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,  
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design  
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set Earth

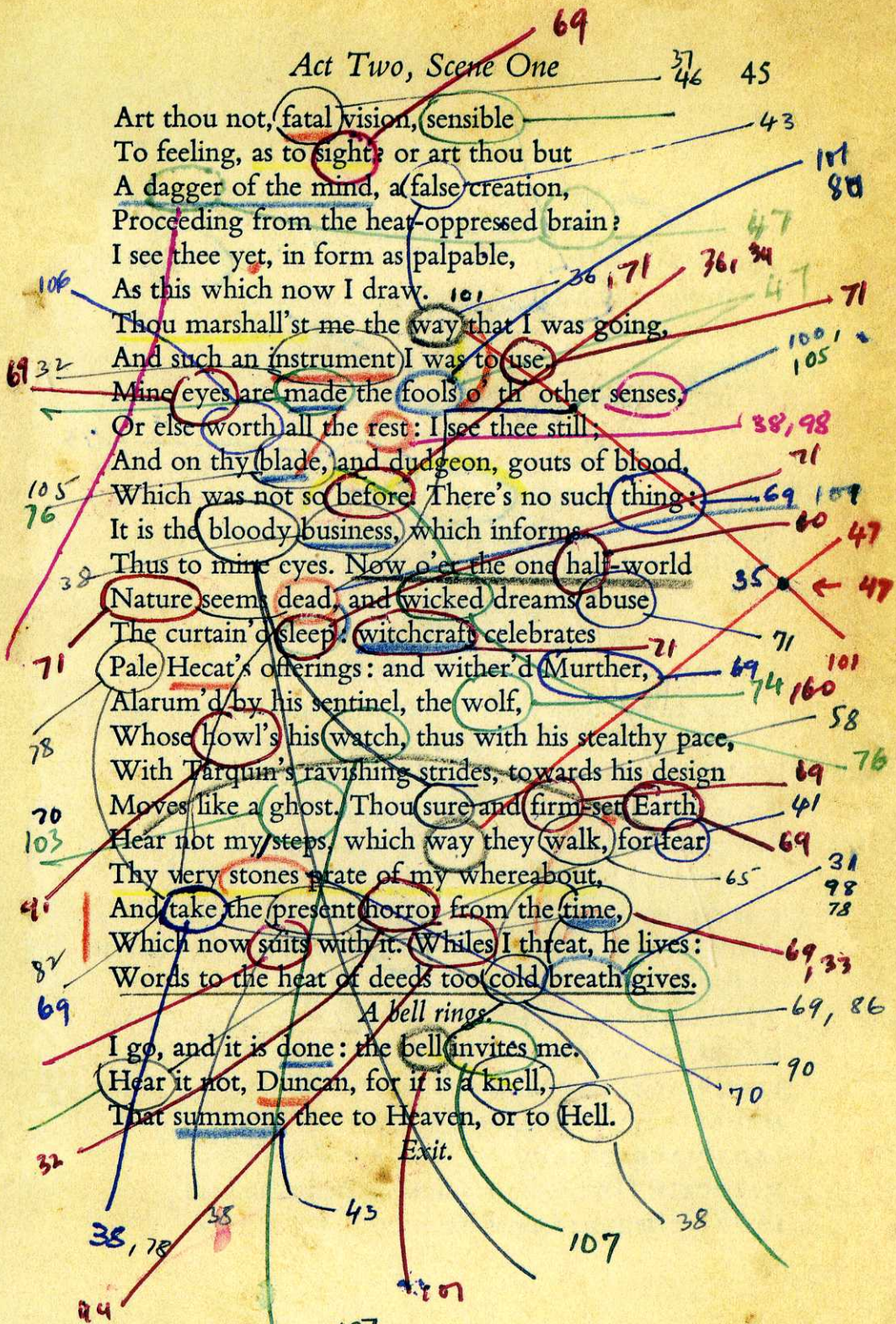
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,  
And take the present horror from the time,

Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

A bell rings.

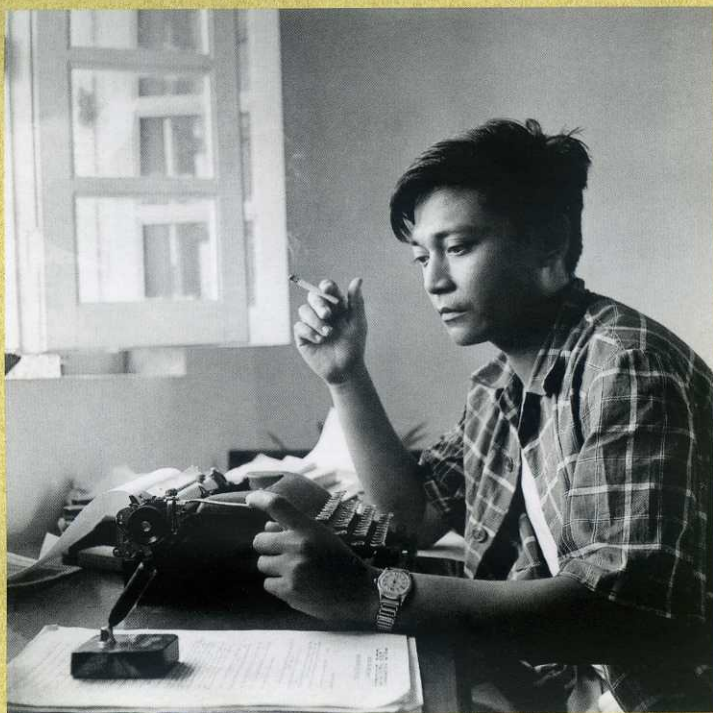
I go, and it is done: the bell invites me.  
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell,  
That summons thee to Heaven, or to Hell.

Exit.



take - present - Hell - business 38





Richard the poet, painter, photographer, art critic and above all, a true friend to us all—the artists.

I met him in his poetry, became familiar with his paintings and we clicked as long-time friends.

One remembers with fondness, the many occasions we spent together, be it a noisy and stormy gathering of artists or a quiet evening in a coffee shop, his silent smile, quick intelligence and warmth always shone.

We gained a lot through his four decades of valuable contribution to the development of the Contemporary Indian Art movement.

*M.F. Husain*

ISBN 978-93-5067-365-2



9 789350 673652 >