In late February 1993, Indonesian author Hersri Setiawan arrived for a brief visit to Australia to participate in the Perth Writers' Festival at the Fremantle Arts Centre. A former political prisoner held for nine years in detention without trial, he managed to leave Indonesia several years ago and now lives in the Netherlands as a political exile. These poems have been translated by David T. Hill.

Resting

I gaze at the blue of the swan river mouth
as if its waves whisper
skimmed by the north wind
there is a dim voice
restrained by the walls of feeling

fremantle 1.3.1993

Fremantle Terzinas

scene one
blue flowers there with unknown names
joking with the morning sun
gaze at me emptily

scene two
a honeyeater perches on the clothes-line
under which I sit alone
casts me a glance then flies off without a sound

scene three
blackbirds call out hoarsely
from the shady branches of the olive tree
young couples searching for peace

murdoch 4.3.1993