

The Illusions of Other Sides
Edward Lee

No matter how much I shower
I still smell the dirt on me,
the decay of my death,
the satin inlay of my coffin,
the wood I broke
to rise,
gathering splinters
in my stained skin
that I can not remove.
Clay beneath my nails,
most of them cracked,
all to reclaim air,
sunlight,
life,
little realising that the life I led
never existed anywhere
but in my head.
I had wasted a good death
for nothing.
Trust me, I would clamber back down,
barricade myself back into my coffin,
but some other disenfranchised fool
has taken it,
covered himself up
with all that loose dirt
and broken wood,
his dirt-muffled cries of joy
rising sluggishly towards the unfocused sky.

Edward Lee's poetry, short stories, non-fiction and photography have been published in magazines in Ireland, England and America, including *The Stinging Fly*, *Skylight 47*, *Acumen*, and *Smiths Knoll*. His debut poetry collection, "Playing Poohsticks On Ha'Penny Bridge" was published in 2010. He is currently working towards a second collection. He also makes music under the names Ayahuasca Collective, Lewis Milne, Orson Carroll, Blinded Architect, Lego Figures Fighting, and Pale Blond Boy. His blog/website can be found at ewardmlee.wordpress.com