

it's not fear and loathing  
is it?

east coast reality  
rubbed up against vegas  
atlantic city  
mecca of the fifties  
a theme park  
gussied up  
like some old whore  
riding in the front seat  
but not for long  
she gave it away too many times  
out behind the bumper cars  
new boys  
strut the boardwalk  
in tight white tees  
combing back  
greased black hair  
into cresting waves  
hood ornament testimonials  
to the throbbing power in their jeans  
they look at her with derision  
as if donald trump  
had showed up  
with his comb-over

wikipedia gets it wrong  
about hunter thompson's  
big hill outside vegas  
from which he could see  
where the wave of the 60s  
broke and never reached  
the neon city  
they say he was writing about acid  
fuck that  
acid was a tactic in hunter's strategy

he was all about politics and  
the 60's was politics  
the politics of us  
against the politics of me  
the politics of we  
against the politics of greed  
and we lost  
so now it's gonna roll over you brother  
you can't duck it  
but the shame's not yours  
that belongs to vegas  
the poster child  
for a failed human experiment  
a marker for the end of civilization  
we knew  
where boys turned into donkeys  
inviting girls up to their rooms  
now they come from ukiah  
and hopland  
drunk  
crying at neon  
over slim-hipped girls  
for whom they can't buy  
the american dream  
they walk night streets  
staring at marquees  
selling engelbert humperdinck  
and carrot top  
they sense the next attraction  
coming to the strip  
a vegas-style housing bust  
played out this time  
with hotels and casinos  
where the formerly square-healed  
desperately sell off  
foreclosed high rises  
with brown lawns  
and slimy pools

vegas  
you think chinese money  
will make you flush  
bring you a full house  
instead your casinos will go dark  
and the little brown guys  
offering snap cards  
a girl to your room in 20 minutes  
will outnumber tourists  
contending with homeless for the sidewalk  
where rick harrison's pawn shop  
is the main attraction  
then you'll know fear  
vegas  
no longer loathing  
the wave you might have ridden