

Lisa Tan
One Night Stand (Paris)
2006
Digital video projection
Duration 22:11, silent
Variable installation

The subtitles in this imageless video are derived from notes written during the course of a trip from New York to Paris, which lasted 24 hours.

Video Transcript

00:00

Flight 120 departs at 9:30pm.
There is a hole in the ceiling.
Edges of the drywall are turned toward the ground.
A thin aluminum strap divides the hole.
Boarding group five
Nom, Nom de jeune fille
Prénoms
Date de naissance
Lieu de naissance
Nationalité
Profession
Domicile
Aéroport ou port d'embarquement
When I'm over the Atlantic, I am supposed
to open a little red box that he gave me.
The box is about two inches by three
inches in size, wrapped in tissue paper.
The bow is about a quarter
inch thick and has ridges every millimeter.
I will open it in a couple hours.
maybe I can't wait...
In a couple minutes I will be over the Atlantic.
I am thinking about that Rousseau
painting at the Met
that has the ham on the table and a letter.
The painting has a dull varnish.
The ham is very pink and the painting
is on a beige wall.
I opened up my red present.
I am slow.
My auxiliary light casts
a dark defined shadow on this page.
It is a boulder obscuring
the scratches of ink being made.
The book on my lap is green and the
front cover is unintentionally dog-eared.
The spine is desiccated and
cracks as I turn pages.

The center of the page glows becoming
more discolored at the corners.
It is forty-eight degrees in Paris.
My perfume has finally faded.
I can only smell it if I bring my
left wrist close to my nose.
26G just turned his light on and is
reading a Russian newspaper.
the runway
10:25 AM
glass hallways
reflection in mirrored columns
fake plants
grooves in concrete block
skylights
circles
diffused white light
monitors perched on columns
10:54 AM
two cute Labradors, separate owners
Centre Pompidou poster
It is not cold, but it should be colder
The Sheraton looks like a ship.
It has begun to rain.
11:32 AM
11:35 AM
11:38 AM
tree-lined highway
Pissaro trees
11:43 AM
orange overpass
same orange as the tile in Giovanni's bathroom
It is still raining.
11:54 AM
12:09 PM
Garde de Lyon
rain makes the sidewalks darker
The boulevard access Garde de Lyon
It becomes a tunnel.
emerging to Austerlitz Chateau
the Seine
12:17 PM
poles
cylinders
Haussmannization
pharmacy in script font
It's raining
a cinema
La Louisiane
room 64 on the fourth floor
I had a choice between 27 and 64.
There is a small park on the rue de Sevres.
I am sitting on a green bench.
In my immediate view are two trees.
The one closer to me is darker,
but I can't decipher if it's
because the globe lights of the park

are not illuminating this side of the trunk.
The tree is as tall as the buildings
that surround the park.

Beyond the two trees is a white building
that occupies the entire block.

A high school band is playing at the metro stop.
Traffic whirs to my left.

There are flashing yellow lights to my left.
It is a street cleaner.

The park converges in a circle of dirt.
I am on the perimeter of one
side of the circle.

The two trees are in the circle of dirt
and beyond them are other trees in grass.
Where the grass meets the dirt, there is
a step in the elevation then a gentle hill.

To my right there is a concrete partition about
eighteen inches off the dirt.
In this partition is a lamppost with
a green bulging collar on it.

One squat boulder sits behind the lamppost
and two trees are greener than the ones in
the dirt that stand five feet apart.

There is some sort of pentagonal structure
beyond the boulder and two trees.
But it is still contained within the
concrete raised partition.

The band has stopped.
The structure is dimly lit.
The carousel behind me has shut
down for the night.

Two leaves are at my left foot.
They are facing the exact same
direction which is precisely parallel
to the bench I am sitting on.
It looks like they were placed that
way by someone.
green strip on neon blue double strip
about a quarter inch
length of the green strip is sitting perpendicular
on the left edge of the green strip
It is a pharmacy sign from a side view.
I see now.
I am slow to realize.
The park has been closed.
I was politely asked to leave.

8:47 PM
10:47 PM
rue Bonapart

Two large carved stone heads sit on
top of columns flanking a gate.
Daniel Buren has made a
piece on these columns.
rue Visconti

black window that's about three feet,
ten inches by two feet, five inches
still and quiet area
small traffic circle
clear dark center part has oversized lamp with

five lights that echo the four large trees around it
One tree is considerably larger
than the others.

The circle looks to a traffic T with a formidable
classical style building.

No. 6

The museum is noted with two
discreet but large green doors.

There is a light sensor that
prompts illumination.

There are design stores across the street.

Five storey buildings protect the
center traffic circle.

Black punctuates the buildings.

At the base of the lamp there is a silhouette.

It looks like a floating cupid or angel
smudged onto the cylindrical
stone base of the lamp.

There is a spray painted word with an
exclamation point.

rue de Furstemberg

small wood table

with wooden salt and pepper shakers

that are the same size

cylinders with little brass knobs
at the top, like nipples

My knife and fork lay to the
right of my writing hand.

The knife has a slight curve to it that bends
into the cutting edge of the utensil.

It is thin...

like a finger on a hand in a
Byzantine painting.

six inch tall glass of wine that has the
contour of a tulip bulb just before it opens
house medoc

I have my back to the restaurant.

duck, potatoes, and half of a baked tomato
salmon tartare with lentils and lemon

12:15 AM

after 1:00 AM

Room 64

fourteen by fourteen feet

ceiling height nine feet

The bed is forty-eight by seventy-five
with a white blanket.

white sheets

one white pillow

One window looks out to where four buildings meet.

It is quiet...

yet

I can hear the person below.

There is a wall-hung nightstand
with bedside lamp and a phone.

desk with aluminum legs and a
fake wood laminate top

twenty by twenty-six inches

It has a fan.

phone and a clear glass ashtray

There are two chairs in the room.
The bathroom is long.
beige tile
I am on the fourth floor which
means five flights of stairs.
I walk to have a sense of the
Amsterdam Avenue routine
I am utterly exhausted.
My wake up time is in four hours.
I will have a cab pick me up.
There is a full-length mirror in the room.
5:46 AM
6:30 AM
dark
flying buttress
shutters
fall trees
Bastille Austerlitz
glass
Seine
dark street along the Seine
illuminated trees
lampposts
Pont de Bercy
yellow lights
Créteil
double columns
Lille
steel?
glass?
tunnels
columns
yellow lights
like a filmstrip...
the shadows moving in the car
moving in front and over me
getting lighter as we move east
Charles de Gaulle
I'm too tired to write.
BA305
9:10 AM
London Heathrow
raining
minutes to New York
just finished reading
Nadja

22:11