



A visual representation of "modern concrete" by Eddie Tay

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## modern concrete

Eddie Tay

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*concrete is modern as airports  
bridges pavements and the river still  
a river and functional*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*the new hermit  
a snail of a shell is modern and not seen  
like wi fi*

*he lives within a mountain  
of pigeon flats  
holes in an economy of a few million snails  
by the bank of pale water*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

*i try for colour  
but the city's concrete does not allow me*

*so here's the housing project in chunks  
with mended words*

*the cars gleam silver like fishes*

"modern concrete" was published in *Dreaming Cities* by Eddie Tay, p.55. Copyrights © 2016 by Eddie Tay. Reprinted by permission of the poet.

My work expresses the melancholy and deprived vibrancy in a monotonous city.

The heart of the city is in a dull-grey colour, emphasising the dreary concrete which brings merely 'functional' purpose to the city. The combination of the tarnished walls, wrecked windows, shattered scraps, a shiny modern car, faceless and emotionless pedestrians cramped in the centre of the city brings out the sense of emptiness and the absence of vibrancy. The confined and compact architectural complex illustrates the disconnection between the people in society. Despite being the heart of the city, its heartbeat seems to have stopped and its warmth has gone due to rapid urban development. What is left is just like an empty container.

The man in hoodie in the bottom left corner represents the poet. The colourful hoodie symbolises the pursuit of a colourful life within the city. Although the poet seems to be extremely eye-catching, the zombie-like pedestrians still neglect him and continue their day being only 'functional' and monotonous. The use of obvious contrast in colours aims to highlight the isolation of the poet as the last one to try to build a more caring and affectionate society.

Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Care

Positive message(s):

The artwork encourages everyone to persevere in what is right and not be influenced by the external environment even in adversity.