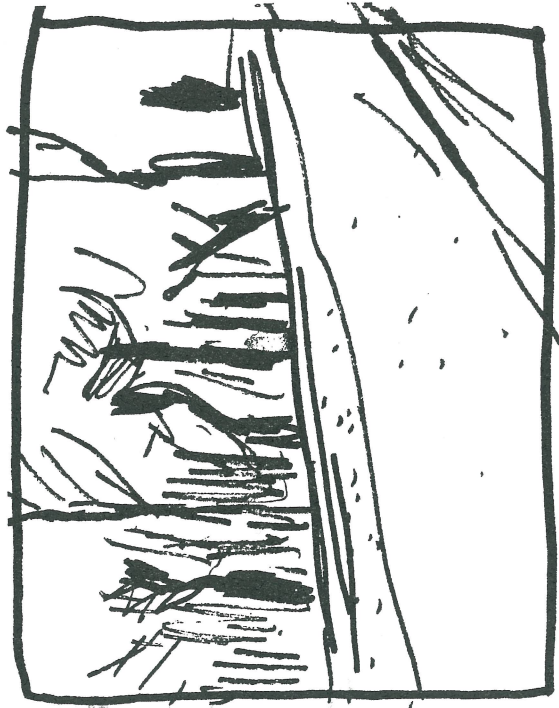


Caroline and Me-Ho, day off fruit picking

By a notable Kauri tree a bus, like us, pulls up
and 10,000 k south of Japan
Me-Ho bumps into her old school teacher

Samoans, good banter

I watch the skin stretch across the back of his head
as in the rear view mirror,
I catch his laughing eyes



People carrier, mum with school kids

Some kids just stare out
from the shadow of another, often an older sister,
who wants to know everything

Scuba diver with broken arm

When it's luminous and signature scribbled,
a man in a cast
is just an adolescent who hasn't grown up

Maori truck driver, listening to Joe Cocker

He says "hey bro" several times over
and with a practiced wrench of a muscular arm,
my rucksack is lifted

Middle-aged couple,
hitched around England in youth

Looking back,
I can't tell if I miss the country
or I miss being young