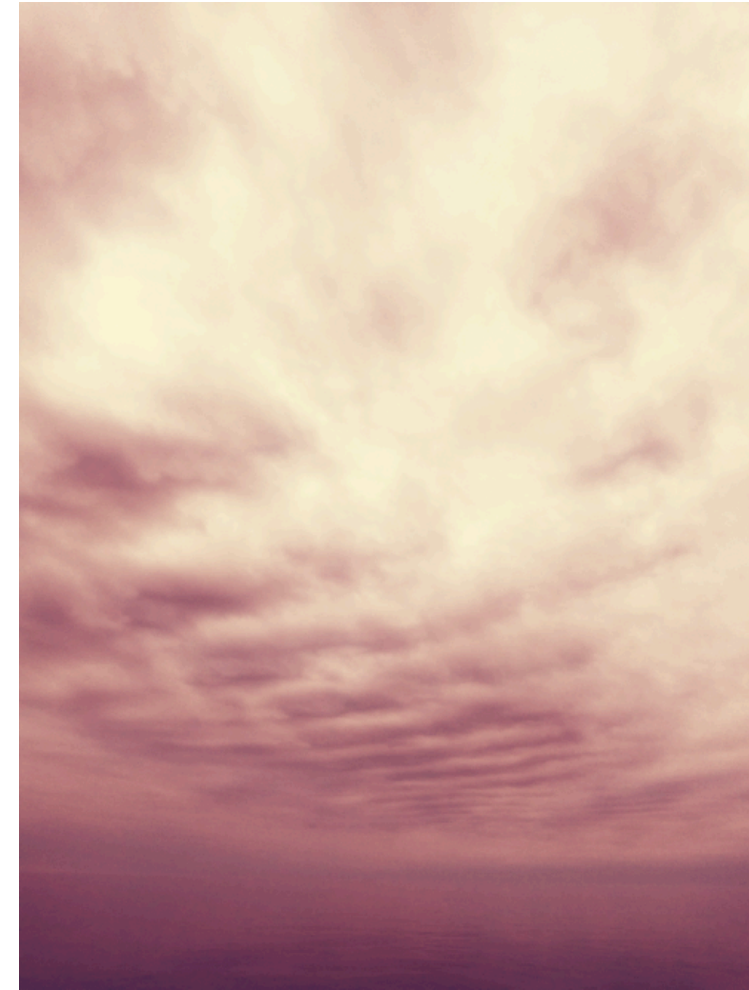


Inaugural Essay

Wuthering.UK

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But first something about the Dark Muse



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To begin

Light snow drifts gently down from low clouds draped over a misty boreal forest. Deer in their grey winter coats process through the fir and spruce. Ravens and crows dolefully croak and caw back and forth. And I burn a daytime candle. Such an ambience to convey my thoughts, my *feelings* about my *Dark Muse*¹.

Do you have an affinity for things on the gloomy side? Do you find dreamy what they find dreary ... like when an overcast day brings on a strangely sanguine melancholy ... or a stormy night is magnificent in a frightening and thrilling sort of way? Is twilight like a strange reprieve freeing your senses *and* deepening your thoughts? Perhaps you've paused to gaze transfixed upon an old, abandoned cemetery, or a lonely, nondescript landscape. And of course you are somewhere between panic and nausea by attempts at happy-clappy, sunny-cheery. You prefer candlelight over artificial light, old architecture over new, the genial disorder of wild nature over the forced order of gardens. If you do live in a city, you gravitate to the "old town." Spectacular gets old quick, but all things subtle and veiled are magnetic. And wouldn't it be grand if every month (or week!) we celebrated Halloween? If yes to any of this, you might understand what I'm trying to say here.

And so my Dark Muse is guided, originates from how I *feel*, wherever feelings may be housed—brain or heart or both. Eighteenth-century Romanticism² was a movement predicated on going with your gut feelings, as opposed to the Enlightenment's

¹ *muse*: Originally any of the nine sister goddesses in Greek mythology presiding over music, literature, and arts; *or* a state of deep thought or abstraction, e.g., to enter a *muse* over a poem; *or* a source of inspiration, e.g., *She is my muse*.

² Quick preliminary, much more later: The term Romanticism followed a twisted path beginning

predominantly rational-logic scientific determinism. Romanticism makes an open admission that we are primarily guided not by logic, rather, by how we feel about a thing. Does my Dark Muse ultimately feel good, right? Yes! Thus, my pursuit thereof.

with the Latin *romant*, or, “in the Roman manner”, thus, not at all our current use of the word as a synonym of love.



RANSFIXED BY AN ABANDONED GRAVEYARD: OCTONIMOE@DEVIANTART

The first elephant I should at least slightly shift from the centre of the room is the modern *goth subculture*³, along with all the *gothic* horror fright memes—vampires, witches, demons—mean, menacing this, campy, threatening, evil that. Yes, my Dark Muse would hopefully include, be akin to what is today called goth and gothic, but I must go deeper and more elemental. I hope to speak to your

³ ...described here as well as anywhere. In very short, I believe they, like many, surely *sense* Dark, but for whatever reasons only want to express it, explore it very narrowly through goth music and