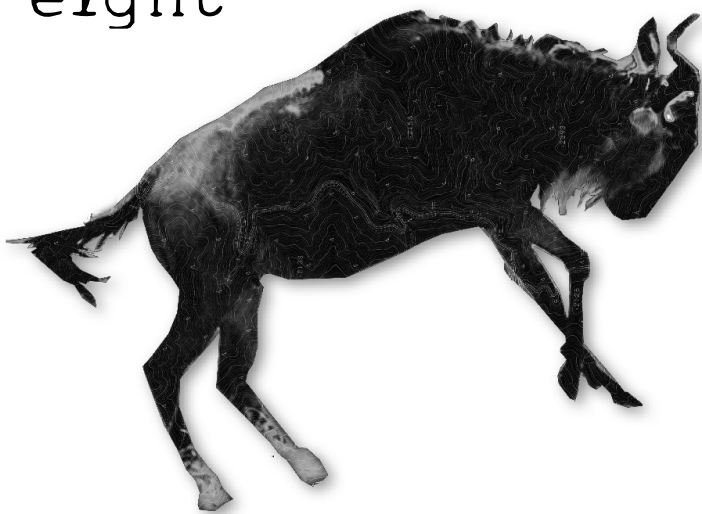

one
point
six
one
eight



madeleine
lee

one point six one eight

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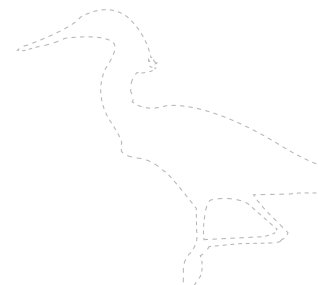
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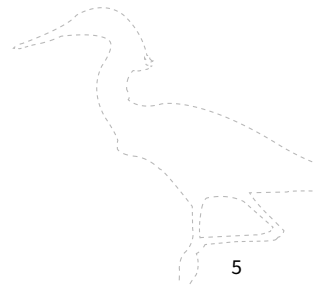
[...in mathematics and the arts, two quantities are in the golden ratio [Φ] if the ratio of the sum of the quantities to the larger quantity is equal to the ratio of the larger quantity to the smaller one.

Expressed algebraically:

$$\frac{a+b}{a} = \frac{a}{b} = \Phi$$

where the Greek letter phi [Φ] represents the golden ratio. Its value is 1.6180339887...]

[...the great serengeti migration sees herds of hundreds of thousands of wildebeests moving, clockwise, from the south-east of serengeti in tanzania, after the april rains, up north-west to the grumeti river environs till july and again up north across the mara river into the masai mara in kenya, accompanied by nearly a million heads of zebras, buffalos, lions and hyenas, and then back again...]



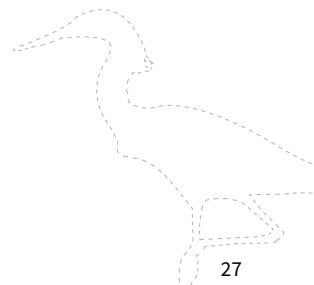
sungei buloh

the eastern egret flies
from india to south-east asia
to australia and new zealand
enroute it stops in a port of call
favouring mangroves mudflats and estuaries
here in singapore monsoon drains substitute
the mud speckles discolouring
the brown male in breeding season
narrowly escaped the mad hatter last century
now retiring as waterway mascots
flourishing in all directions
until some urbane planner
presuming higher intellect
suggests cleaning up sungei b

delivery

the usual drop-off of an eight year old
brings me past the country's key hospital
its maternity wards caress twelve thirteen
thousand young ones a year
competitively vying for calender firstborn

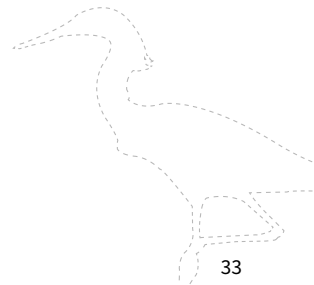
at a routine traffic light
an egret flies overhead
more white than brown
a female we surmise
delivering yet another
genetic parcel today



home

same white wings
same yellow hint
same long beak
same monsoon drain
from the northern cold
to the southern warmth
why go so far
only to double back
why not like the rest of us stay
midway in tropical muck at home

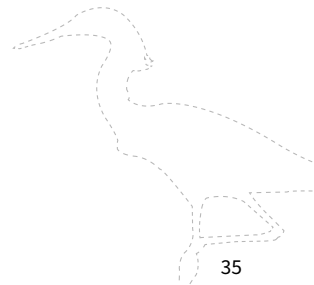
[...the asian white egret flies from north indian plains to australia and new zealand and then back again, on its way stopping in the lush tropical jungles of singapore, malaysia and indonesia...]



Madeleine Lee is an investment manager who also writes poetry. She has published 4 volumes of poetry and 1 poetry chapbook. “one point six one eight” is her sixth book of poetry.

Madeleine’s poems have been adapted to short films, dance and full-length theatre productions. Her work is also in numerous anthologies and translated into Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, Chinese and French. She has read in poetry festivals in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, HK, Hanoi, Paris, Melbourne and Adelaide.

She has also initiated many poetry-related projects, namely: NORA, the NLB Online Repository of Artistic Works (2004), ‘The Second Link – a showcase of Singapore Malaysia Literature’ for SWF 2005, ‘y grec’ for SWF 2007, ‘Moving Words’- poetry on the MRT for SWF 2010. She is currently working on a theatre production of ‘one point six one eight’ with Cake Theatre.



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