

## **AT DEATH WE DO PART**

Oil and musicians blood on canvas

This painting is performance art designed to give instant visual impact and it portrays the traumatic story of twins, who were born with their heads joined together, side by side as one. They were separated by an operation which went terribly wrong.

### **At death they did part.**

I have combined the style of Cubism with that of Surrealism in an attempt to depict the tragic event of the operation to separate the two heads of Laden and Leleh Bijani, which took place in a hospital in Singapore. The operating theatre became my view finder.

This composition began as the twins did, by joining the heads at the top of the canvas, integrating cubism style facial marks with Surrealist shapes and colours. The musician's blood drips symbolise the failure of the operation, whilst the musical note shows the harmonic love the girls had for each other throughout their lives. During the operation their torso's became distorted writhing in physical, mental and silent pain, an act illustrated by the use of aggressive and sensitive marks, and silent colour.

This painting has been executed with hospital implements similar to the one's used in the operating theatre. Scalpels, needles, cotton wool, and syringes were all used to apply the marks with paint, as they were to separate the twins. The painting process became an operation itself. I the artist replaced the surgeon, whilst my brushes were substituted by the surgical instruments in this barbaric ritual performance, which went wrong, as the operation did.

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### **AT DEATH WE DO PART. 2003.**

Deities with two heads and many arms  
Were despised and revered by turns.  
Messiahs died cruelly in sight of palms  
That blessed them. A martyr's divine flesh still burns.

But this is a modern Gotterdammerung.  
there the scalpel rules Olympus. The gods cry,  
Teach us divine grace through intensive care,  
Then, desiring to be human, die.