

## 9. Tools (or, Capital under management) \_\_\_\_\_

*Thursday*

Through light drizzle riding  
nothing washed but everything wet  
down Rue du Trône & Avenue de la Couronne  
MESSAGE ROUTE, LIFE SPINE  
cycling between appointments  
between traffic & parked cars  
drops gently thrown forward from front wheel spinning  
are inky & opaque

Then taking Avenue Nouvelle, parallel, quiet  
the spray-from-tire is dirty, yes, but more transparent  
so what is in those other drops  
those drops of motor jam?  
You have ideas but not  
the analytical tools to test them

*Sunday*

*The Economist* is running a series of voices from “Generation Prophet” – prophet with a P-H, and all under thirty one:

The next century should be pretty incredible. Technology is the most potent agent of change. We’ve funded over 1,300 start ups so far, worth more than \$75bn in aggregate. Our efforts are a small part of what we must do as a species. We must direct our resources towards solving our most important problems and make the future great for everyone.

San Francisco optimism positively drips from the pages, and confidence: to declare on behalf of a species. Our species. Our species is still letting its dogs shit on people’s doorsteps. On your doorstep, this morning. *Increase surveillance for behavioural change* – such solutions are available to government. But you don’t want increased surveillance. You just wish people knew how to behave with common decency, and clean up after the dog they have chosen to own. If the particulates of society cannot do this, then what hope for ... ? So well-meaning articles turn you to anger and compound your inadequacy. You have failed in your millennial duty to start start-ups – but we should celebrate failure. Amidst such imperatives, you tie yourself up in the world’s smuggest Gordian knot. And thus pessimism gets passed along. One misanthrope begets another. It’s Generation Fuck Off, here in the old continent.

*Monday*

Riding around, you wish to cut  
through complexity with credos  
you haven’t quite stubbed out a belief  
in the cumulative power of small decisions

WE CAN ACHIEVE  
BETTER CITY AIR  
IF WE WANT IT