

DOWN AND OUT IN AMSTERDAM AND L.A.

My brother Tony traveled for a few months in Europe. When he was broke he went to Amsterdam and waited for a check from home. He hung out at the Stedelijk Museum where he said they had good hot cocoa.

One day while he was drinking his cocoa Ed Kienholtz walked in and sat down. Tony introduced himself and Kienholtz invited him to join him. He bought him lunch, because Tony was broke and I suppose because Tony was an artist and an American, and a good guy.

Kienholtz is a famous artist and since Barney's Beanery he's done well, but he'd been broke a few times himself when he was young. So when Tony told him his story he handed him 20 dollars.

"How can I pay you back?" Tony asked.
"Oh, don't worry about it," Kienholtz said,
"You'll figure something out."

So ten years later in L.A. Tony was printing lithographs for everyone from Jasper Johns to Lichtenstein. And one day Kienholtz walked in to do some multiples of gas cans that looked like t. vees.

Tony helped him and when Kienholtz was ready to leave Tony said, "I bet you don't remember this but we met before."
And Kienholtz said, "Sure I do. The Stedelijk in 1970. You owe me twenty bucks."