

I Dreamt I Was Vermeer

by Jerry Ratch

I dreamt I was Vermeer
For just a little while
I took this photo of a criminal
A mugshot really
And claimed I had painted it
From memories of a previous life

He looked just like a Vermeer
With the light coming in
From the side of his face
I was speechless
So, when I fell asleep that night
I dreamt I was Vermeer
And did a painting of a criminal
Who appeared to me
From a future time

I began sweating like the criminal
I had seen in my dream
Calm down, they told me
You can't be Vermeer
Forever

Because I wanted to paint
Another and another
They were so beautiful

