

BARTLEBY REVIEW

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The Artist is Starving Patrick Cruz

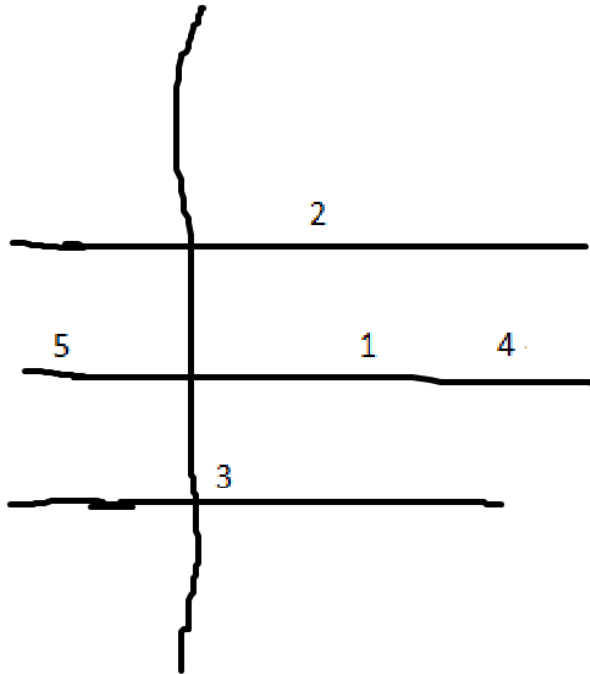
Food

*Various Locations
Chinatown and Gastown*

Kent's Kitchen – This innocent looking joint serves a myriad of food, more than your eyes can stomach. For only \$5.50 you get to pick two viands with either chow mein or white rice, and this is also accompanied by a complimentary house soup and warm tea. The serving is an unapologetic heap of food piled onto your plate as if you were on death row eating your last supper. Stale looking dishes should be avoided as I have treaded there myself; the results of these are unfathomable pain concluding with a Pollock painting. Ignore the ambiance and you will be just fine.

Kam Wai Dim Sum – Due to its stark exterior and interior color palette this factory-chic lunchroom may not even come across as a restaurant on first glance. Upon entering this venue you will

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- 1 - Kent's Kitchen, 232 Keefer street
- 2 - Kam Wai Dimsum, 249 E Pender street
- 3 - Ba Le Sandwhich, 650 Main street
- 4 - Hons, 268 Keefer street
- 5 - Keefer Mall, 180 Keefer street
- 6 - Army & Navy, 36 West Cordova Street

be greeted by a wall of freezers incubating frozen dumplings and a variety of snacks waiting to be awoken by a steamer. On your right is their cafeteria that boasts an assortment of dim sum dishes that cost less than five bucks. Their lotus wrapped sticky rice is a local treasure imbued with Chinese sausage and bits of meat for only \$3.50.

BA LE Sandwich Shop – This minimal sandwich shop offers a variety of Vietnamese subs with optional exotic desserts like beans married with coconut milk and jelly. The interior is furnished with two tables that can seat four people at a time. Personally I order *dac biet* all the time, it's basically a cold cut sandwich with double the meat for an additional fifty cents. I would also recommend the Vietnamese bacon: the texture of this meat is on par with lotion gliding across your tongue and just melts away like spring coming to blossom.

Hon's Wun-Tun House – It may seem intimidating with an intense five page laminated menu, not to mention that their walls are also plastered with more menus of specialty items. You are inside a huge menu. I would suggest their congee with century egg which costs less than \$5. Don't forget to try their notorious potstickers as these are what they are known for. The

building where Hon's is situated is worth exploring too.

Keefer Mall – You see, this place is dreamy and spacey and the food court here sports three joints side by side offering slightly different styles of cooking. The ambiance here is close to an after-life in an unflattering way, but still, the vendors are a compliment to its peaceful environment. I suggest you try each of them to find your true love. One of them is called Fastfood, which is where I always go. The servers are really friendly and their BBQ chicken is unreal.

Army & Navy – In case you get SICK of all the dumplings and pork buns, believe it or not, Army & Navy's mini café hosts a robust roster of food. One of their popular items is the \$1.50 grilled cheese. It takes forever to be made, but is plain amazing. They also have a stack of suspicious sandwiches that cost \$3 each. I ask them all the time if they're fresh and they always answer that they are.

Patrick Cruz