

RESTLESS ASTRONOMY

POEMS NEW AND SELECTED

BY

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ACHILLES PROPOSES TO ISADORA DUNCAN NEAR ATHENS: 1903

Your smile is a ladder
I climb into your beauty

Earth waits by the curb
Orbits idling
The sun dips in the sky
Like a fuel indicator

Let us flee
On mythological heels
Let's out-race
The Valkyries
Move through cumulus
Without effort

Not all histories
Stumble inconclusively
Drunk over a curb
On a moonless night

But hurry
We must escape this time and space
Over mountains that loom
Stubbed into the darkness
Like half-smoked cigars

Gather your energies
Tighten your lips
Lift up your arms
Whirl if you must
The compass of a circle
I will stride
Anxious with velocity beside you
Hovering in the air between footfalls

And if you tire
I will bear you on golden armour
Sun bronzed muscles
Taut carbon steel.

MADAME PISSARRO SEWING

Your bent young form in the fading light
The coming storm rumbling in the hills

There exists an ambiguous mystical life
Within the stitched parameters you sew

And parallel to what there is at hand
I am as rent as lace caught on a button

Your healing patience works the thread
And whole again is that which once was not.

MODERN MUSIC IN THE ANCIENT REALM

These are our dominions:
A humming fan in the corner
Falling rain on the fire escape
Anger that eludes articulation.

It is how
We understand and recognize
Turning points for what they are.

It is how youth
Pivots upon its destiny
Renders moot the path mistaken.

IN THE PALACE GARDEN

for Catherine

Whose beauty if not yours
What stillness if not this

Moon over water
Loon and lute
The soundless breeze caresses flesh of lips
Parts eyelash like a kiss

Whose stillness if not yours
What beauty if not this.

