

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Monalisa Maione: Two Poems

Monalisa Maione · Thursday, September 15th, 2016

Monalisa Maione is a published feminist poet and visual artist with several degrees in analog photography which became virtually obsolete the day she graduated. In lieu of working-for-the-man, she founded a vampire fang company, a performance space for uncensored art and a unicycle club. She lives with a brain injury which informs her life and work in beautiful and mysterious ways. She lives between San Luis Obispo, California and Paris, France.

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## What you can learn on a date

getting to know each other –  
the ex-wife curled up naked  
weeping after sex  
let's call her intimacy  
the narcissistic mother ignoring  
your lengthy texts  
let's call her agency  
telling a woman  
she should be patient  
let's call her control  
want to go on two dates?

fucking a young man on December 31<sup>st</sup>  
let's call that New Year's Eve  
fucking a different young man before  
showering the first one off  
let's call that New Year's day  
never intending to fuck either man again  
let's call that a New Year's resolution  
let's just call it what it is  
say it for what it's worth  
*once upon a time, a woman*  
*controlled a man with his own lust*  
now that's an old story, isn't it?  
they all want to take a bite of the apple  
then stuff the rest of it into her mouth  
let's call that lipstick  
she thinks –

I will not personalize anything self-damaging  
 he explains the problem to her –  
 it pisses her off when he's trying too hard to fuck her  
 it pisses her off when he's not trying hard enough to fuck her  
 it pisses her off when he's not fucking her right  
 it pisses her off when he's fucking someone else  
 they move on to dessert  
 you say tomato, I say *NO!*  
 I don't want you to hit me when I come  
 he is from Mars she is from Venus  
 their sexes are opposing  
 he is Pisces she may or may not be Pisces  
 or Gemini or Cancer  
 she is definitely cancer  
 let's call that happily ever after

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## Because I said I would write you

things in California are as  
 one would expect, climate  
 change, no water  
 and people fighting  
 over it from a distance  
 further than clouds, nest  
 of rattlesnakes in my shed  
 a snake print dress arrived  
 in the mail, I caught one and  
 moved it deeper into the canyon  
 I'm sure the snake and the dress  
 are not connected  
 stop saying yes they are  
 you always say that  
 a man I used to have sex with  
 accused me of having  
 Narcissistic Personality Disorder  
 but I couldn't match any of the  
 criteria to my behavior  
 except something  
 about needing to feel  
 appreciated  
 this man who came  
 inside me, came inside my  
 mouth, I pulled tightly at his  
 body with my hips and  
 he could not resist  
 releasing a venom knowing  
 I owned a part of him

for the better  
half of a week  
I'm sure the sex and the man  
and the snake and his  
fear and the change in the  
weather are connected  
stop saying no they aren't  
you always say that

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