

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Henry Denander: "Nursing" & "My Funny Valentine"

Henry Denander · Thursday, March 29th, 2012

For over 25 years Henry Denander has worked on the business side of the entertainment industry. He is also the editor of Kamini Press. His poetry and artwork can be viewed on his website. You may find "Nursing" and "My Funny Valentine" in his latest book of poetry, *Accidental Navigator*, Lummo Press, 2011.

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### Nursing

When I came back from the hospital  
I wanted to tell my son about what  
they had done to me;  
I'd suffered from a really painful  
kidney stone and I had rushed  
to the hospital to get it removed.  
I told him there'd been one doctor and  
two nurses present and I was about to tell how  
they had performed a cystoscopy; by inserting a  
long instrument through my very private parts  
they had removed the stone from my bladder.  
I told my 10-year old son  
the nurses had started by cleaning  
my "weenie".  
William interrupted me:  
– Did there really have to be two nurses to do that? he said  
It was a good question.

### My Funny Valentine

The first flat of my own in Stockholm was  
really small but in a nice area on one of  
the islands south of the old town.  
My girlfriend often stayed with me,  
since her own flat was way out  
in the suburbs.

The two of us never rang the  
doorbell but used  
the squeaking mail slot in the door;  
when it was opened slowly it made a sound that  
could be heard in the flat  
and made you rush to the door.  
You knew who was there.  
Years later, we have been  
married for some time,  
having dinner in our new flat  
listening to a recording of  
Miles Davis  
playing at Philharmonic Hall in New York  
in 1964.  
My Funny Valentine  
Suddenly, half way into the song,  
we both look up and listen,  
Miles Davis is improvising and  
playing a  
long  
single  
note  
the exact  
tone  
of that  
squeaking mail slot  
We smile  
and feel proud  
to share  
this small secret  
with Miles.

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