

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Gerald Locklin: Three Portraits of the Artists

Gerald Locklin · Thursday, October 4th, 2012

Books from Gerald Locklin so far in 2013 include, along with *Deep Meanings* (Presa Press), a novella trilogy from Spout Hill Press: *The Case of the Missing Blue Volkswagon*, *Come Back, Bear*, and *Last Tango in Long Beach* (available individually from amazon.com), a reprint of *Gerald Locklin: New and Selected Poems*(2008) from Silver Birch Press, and a single-story e-book *The Sun Also Rises in the Desert* from Mendicant Bookworks (available on Smashwords). These three poems originally appeared in *Deep Meanings: New and Selected Poems*(Presa Press); they are reprinted with permission. You may learn more about the poet and contact him through his [website](#) and on Facebook.

Three Portraits of the Artists:

degas between ballets

so often he captures
 not the star performance,
 but the dancers, workers
 really, at their classes,
 rehearsals, practices,
 stretching out, sweating,
 scratching their backs,
 bored, awkward, tired,
 and unbeautiful. all
 the hard , unglamorous routine
 that goes into producing the
 aesthetic illusion, the
 momentary transcendence of
 the dreary here-and-now, the
 transformation of our greasy,
 pimpled, aching matter into
 a form that briefly matters.



paul klee: schoolgirls, outdoors,

children should not smoke cigars.
 children should not be cigars.
 children should not become cigars.

these are metaphysical givens.
 some children have two heads.
 some children are tow heads.
 some children have one head,
 but four eyes. some children
 have three eyes apportioned
 over one-and-a half heads.
 some children have stovepipes
 for heads. some children's heads
 are violet, while other children
 gradually become indistinguishable
 from the background coloration
 (like chameleons, but irreversible).
 some children are the color of ether:
 these are known as "ethereal."
 thus, some children remain part of
 a cosmic consciousness (which is
 monochrome), while others become
 adults, individuals, separated by
 broad brushstrokes and a color of
 their own, one different from that
 of the world and those of their fellow
 adults. they are then allowed to smoke
 cigars. this is a pataphysical certainty.
 it was a good year for schoolgirls
 to go back indoors,
 but they didn't.



amedeo modigliani: servant girl,

wispy hair, prim dress, clunky boots:
 eyes (and expectations) cast beneath
 the middle distance.
 hands comforting each other.
 but the sensitivity to stimulation of
 the lips, cheeks, ears, and (always)
 curving, elongated neck remind us
 that our uniforms can only temporarily
 obscure what are not uniform:
 the naked truths of our nerve endings,
 our erogenous zones and erectile tissues.
 thus, a servant girl's a girl
 (a woman is a woman)
 for all that.

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