# **Cultural Daily**

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

#### **Richard Modiano: Three Poems**

Richard Modiano · Wednesday, March 1st, 2017

Elected Executive Director of Beyond Baroque in 2010, Richard Modiano is a writer, curator, and editor. In 2007 he produced Beyond Baroque's "On the Road" 50th Anniversary marathon reading and 2009 he produced the marathon reading and panel discussion of "William Burroughs' Naked Lunch at 50." He has been a member of the Industrial Workers of the World since 1974.

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At the Subway Station

```
A young man approaching
                           and a woman, turning her back
               on him without a word, and
going out to the sidewalk
A man in a sudden outburst of anger
      at a woman who appears to
             have come late for their date
A group of girl students, each
     hand in hand with a friend, their free hands
separately
       hailing a taxi
A plump middle-aged woman
            approaching with rapid
     mincing steps
Every face looking totally intent on some
       immediate intimate aim
What I noticed
       coming from
       the death bed of my brother
```

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## ??(Nazonazo)

### A Bar in Hiroshima

```
A girl bar with red
       neon, called "Riddle"
The young woman took a seat
        on the bar stool next to me
"Nihongo wa diajoubu?" she
asked me "Ee, diajoubu yo"
        A blast of cool air
chilled the sweat on my
        face
and carried her scent
       She smelled good
but I noticed the
        mamasan behind
             the bar
Why did she name the bar "Riddle"?
        The mamasan answers,
"It sounds exotic and it seems to
        pose a question about life"
She was eight when the bomb
        killed her mother and sister-
She still carries scars from
        the glass that slashed her body
Hiroshima City August 7 2005
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#### At the Rainbow Bar & Grill

```
Sitting in the upstairs

bar of the Rainbow next to

a good looking woman waiting

for my friends—

The bar tender isn't

bad looking either—I like
```

```
her lipstick-
       The good looking
woman wears no make-up
but her fingernails
are long and red-
       She drinks
a glass of red wine-
       The bartender sets a glass and
a bottle of mineral water before me-
       The good looking woman says,
"Whatcha writin'?"
       She has smooth
ebony skin, straight
shoulder-length black hair
parted down the middle,
brown eyes under long
lashes-
        "I'm drafting an
article for my private
               newspaper"
"Yeah? Where's it published?"
"In my mind"
        She touched my ring
finger with her index finger
```

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and stroked it with
her red painted nail-
        "No wedding ring?"
"No wedding ring"
        She smiled-
My friends arrived, my
girlfriend arrived and
I gripped my glass with my
left hand-
        I got up and greeted
my friends and put my arm
around my girlfriend-
        The good looking woman slid off the barstool
walked over to
me and pulled my sleeve so
I leaned toward her and she
whispered in my ear,
        "Relationships, such a
ball and chain"
        "Yes, you have a
nice night too"
```

(Author photo by Alexis Rhone Fancher)

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