

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

??(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

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

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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