

Muni Art Featured Artist: Randi Pace

Lyrical City

Lyrical City is a series of watercolor/gouache paintings that explore emotion through portraits. Ranging from contemplative to exuberant, each portrait along with vibrant background colors seek to evoke memory. Some of the pieces include a collage of paintings to represent our journeys of growth, change, and an interweaving of the complexities within each of us. Find me on Instagram @randipaceillustrations

Artist Thanks: Thank you to friends and family for believing in me. The poets involved, your words served as great inspiration. Hearts to Cathy Cody, Elic Senter, and Jon Morgan. Special thanks to Julia Berman, Jane Andrew, Kelly Chen, Alex Chen, and Virgie Tovar for trusting me to capture you with paint.



Traffic

Woman warrior when stuck in traffic
sings love songs, screams, screeches her wheels
across the lost metropolis
puts locks on certain memories
to survive. She has nothing
to say to you
she has everything
to say to you
she sees you in the next car—
forehead pressed to the steering wheel
stereo blaring
sweeping your mind with your eyeballs.
You're a full-blown adult now—
blind as a hubcap to the unseen world.

Brynn Saito

Brynn Saito, "Traffic" from *Power Made Us Swoon*.
Copyright © 2016 by Brynn Saito.
Reprinted with the permission of Red Hen Press.



Love Poem Three Autumns Later

In East Oakland, in my temporary flat,
I wash your empty plant pot
at the kitchen sink.
In the dirt, loosened from the crevices,
tiny flecks of sand—the same
slant of auburn as the pot—
I gather and carry them to the lake.
The water is still. The sky
drifts to the left where memory lives.
Forty years a swamp, I say, opening my palm.

Charif Shanahan

Charif Shanahan, "Love Poem Three Autumns Later."
All Rights Reserved.



Thich Nhat Hanh I Step With You

step breathe
step breathe

—peace flickers at the end of the flame
you sit you speak one word yet the word is impossible

rice brown and eggplant soup green violet
your mind still for peace
decade upon decade bowing speaking lifting the dead
from your shoulders our hands
this is how you walk — one step we walk with you
one step there
a breath as you go as we go

Juan Felipe Herrera

Juan Felipe Herrera, "Thich Nhat Hahn I Step With You"
from *Notes on the Assemblage*.

Copyright © 2015 by Juan Felipe Herrera.

Reprinted with the permission of City Lights Publishers.



To a Student

POEMS ARE ANGELS
come to bring you
the letter you wdn't
sign for

earlier, when it was
delivered
by yr life

Diane di Prima

Diane di Prima, "To a Student" from *The Poetry Deal*.
Copyright © 2014 by Diane di Prima.
Reprinted with the permission of City Lights Publishers.



Relief

We know it is close
to something lofty.
Simply getting over being sick
or finding lost property
has in it the leap,
the purge, the quick humility
of witnessing a birth—
how love seeps up
and retakes the earth.
There is a dreamy
wading feeling to your walk
inside the current
of restored riches,
clocks set back,
disasters averted.

Kay Ryan

Kay Ryan, "Relief" from *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*.
Copyright © 2010 by Kay Ryan.
Reprinted with the permission of Grove Press.







