Appendix D: Writing About and Around Art: Some Models, and High-Water Marks

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Poetry
The following ekphrastic poems are available for free online through the Poetry Foundation’s website: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/

- Elizabeth Alexander -- “Early Cinema,” “Robeson at Rutgers,” and “The Venus Hottentot”
- John Ashbery -- “And Ut Pictura Poesis is Her Name” and “Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror”
- Louise Bogan -- “Statue and Birds”
- Marianne Boruch -- “Little Wife”
- Jericho Brown -- “Track 1: Lush Life”
- Robert Browning -- “My Last Duchess”
- Victoria Chang -- “Edward Hopper Study: Hotel Room”
- Inger Christensen -- “Blue Poles”
- Eduardo C. Corral -- “Testament Scratched into a Water Station Barrell (Translation #11)”
- Mark Doty -- “Brian Age Seven” and “To Bessie Drennan”
- Rita Dove -- “Soprano” and “The Venus of Willendorf”
- Blas Falconer -- “Orphan”
- Lawrence Ferlinghetti -- “In Goya’s Greatest Scenes We Seem to See”
- Jorie Graham -- “San Sepolcro,” “The Violinist at the Window, 1918,” and “Two Paintings by Gustav Klimt”
- Barbara Guest -- “Roses”
- Michael S. Harper -- “Dear John, Dear Coltrane” and “The Militance of a Photograph in the Passbook of a Bantu under Detention”
- H.L. Hix -- “Cy Twombly ‘Beyond (A System for Passing)’”
- John Keats -- “Ode on a Grecian Urn” and “On Seeing Elgin Marbles”
- Paul Killebrew -- “In Eight Parts”
- Yusef Komunyakaa -- “Blackmoors, Villa La Pietra”
- Philip Larkin -- “An Arundel Tomb”
- Karen An-hwei Lee -- “Dream of Ink Brush Calligraphy”
- Valerie Martinez -- “Larry Levan (snake)”
- Andrew Marvell -- “The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers” and “The Gallery”
- W.S. Merwin -- “Identity”
- Howard Moss -- “Painting a Wave”
- Marianne Moore -- “Nine Nectarines and Other Porcelain” and “No Swan so Fine”
- Susan Mitchell -- “Fragment of a Woman from Kos”
- Fred Moten -- “tonk and waterfront, blackline fade, unbuilt hotel, that union hall”
- Angel Nafias -- “Gravity”
- Lorine Niedecker -- “His Carpets Flowered”
- Frank O’Hara -- “On Seeing Larry Rivers’ Washington Crossing the Delaware at the Museum of Modern Art” and “Radio”
- Alicia Ostriker -- “Nude Descending”
- D.A. Powell -- “callas lover” and “meditating upon the meaning of the line ‘clams on the halfshell and rollerskates’ in the song ‘good times’ by chic”
Carl Sandburg -- “Bronzes”
Carmen Gimenez Smith -- “Decoy Gang War Victim”
Stevie Smith -- “Deeply Morbid”
A.E. Stallings -- “The Song Rehearsal”
Gertrude Stein -- “If I Told Him, A Completed Portrait of Picasso”
Liane Strauss -- “My Meninas and the Moon”
Shuzu Takiguchi -- “Yves Tanguy”
William Carlos Williams -- “The Boticellian Trees” and “Cezanne”
Monica Youn -- “Drawing for Absolute Beginners”
William Wordsworth -- “Elegiac Stanzas Suggested by a Picture of Peele Castle in a Storm, Painted by Sir George Beaumont”
Liu Xia -- “Empty Chairs”

More Poetry

Additional poems or book-length poetic examples, largely twentieth-century or after:

Dante Alighieri -- Canto 10, Purgatorio
John Ashbery -- Girls on the Run (1999) and The Vermont Notebook (with Joe Brainard) (1975)
W.H. Auden -- “Musee de Beaux Arts”
Mary Jo Bang -- The Eye Like a Strange Balloon (2004) and A Doll for Throwing (2017)
Mei-mei Berssenbrugge -- Endocrinology (1997) and I Love Artists (2006)
John Berryman -- “Winter Landscape”
Elizabeth Bishop -- “Large Bad Picture” and “Poem”
Sarah Blake -- Mr. West
William Blake -- Songs of Innocence and Experience
Hart Crane -- “The Bridge”
Mahmoud Darwish -- Mural
Natalie Diaz -- “The Facts of Art” and “The Last Mojave Indian Barbie”
Rita Dove -- “Lady Freedom Among Us”
Heid E. Erdrich -- Curator of Ephemera at the New Museum for Archaic Media
Allan Ginsberg -- “Cezanne’s Ports”
Joy Harjo -- Secrets from the Center of the World
Robert Hass -- “Art and Life” and “Time and Materials”
Terrance Hayes -- How to Be Drawn
Mary Hickman -- Rayfish
Fanny Howe -- Needle’s Eye
Randall Jarrell -- “The Knight, Death, and the Devil” and “The Bronze David of Donatello”
Tyehimba Jess -- Leadbelly and Olio
Jesse Lee Kercheval -- Cinema Muto
Ann Lauterbach -- “Edward Hopper’s Way” and “In the Museum of the Word (Henri Matisse)”
Robin Coste Lewis -- The Sable Venus
Federico Garcia Lorca -- Gypsy Ballads
Tan Lin -- An Annotated Index to the Photographic Work of Diana Kingsley
Fred Moten -- *B Jenkins* and “The Gramsci Monument”
Haryette Mullen -- *Muse and Drudge*
Pablo Neruda -- *Canto General*
Lorine Niedecker -- “Audubon” and “van Gogh”
Jena Osman -- *Public Figures*
Morgan Parker -- “‘Lilac Wine’ by Earth Kitt vs. ‘Lilac Wine’ by Jeff Buckley,” “99 Problems,” and “We Don’t Know When We Were Opened (Or, The Origin of the Universe)”
Claudia Rankine -- *Citizen*
Adrienne Rich -- “Mourning Picture” and “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law”
Rainer Maria Rilke -- “Archaic Torso of Apollo”
Martha Ronk -- *Transfer of Qualities* and *Ocular Proof*
W.G. Sebald -- *After Nature*
Leslie Marmon Silko -- *Storyteller*
Edmund Spenser -- Book 3 of *The Faerie Queene*
Cole Swensen -- *Such Rich Hour*, *The Book of a Hundred Hands* and *The Glass Age*
Eileen Tabios -- *Dredging for Atlantis*
Natasha Tretheway -- *Bellocq’s Ophelia* and *Thall*
Derek Walcott -- *Tiepolo’s Hound* and *Morning, Paramin*
Rosanna Warren -- “Renoir”
Simone White -- *Dear Angel of Death*
C.D. Wright -- *One Big Self*
Charles Wright -- “Homage to Claude Lorrain” and “Homage to Paul Cezanne”
William Carlos Williams -- *Pictures from Breughel and Other Poems*
John Yau -- *Further Adventures in Monochrome*, *Exhibits*, and *Bijoux in the Dark*
Monica Youn -- *Ignatz*
Kevin Young -- *Jelly Roll: a blues*, *To Repel Ghosts*, and *Black Maria*

**Prose of all Kinds**
The following works include sustained engagements with real or imagined works of art; collections in which no chapters, stories, or essays are designated contain more than three.

Hanif Abdurraquib -- *They Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us* (2017)
Donald Antrim -- Title story in *The Emerald Light in the Air* (2014)
James Baldwin -- *The Devil Finds Work* (1976)
Honore de Balzac -- “The Unknown Masterpiece” (1831)
Dodie Bellamy -- “Phone Home” in *When the Sick Rule the World* (2015)
John Berger -- *A Seventh Man* (1975), *Selected Essays* (2001), and *Bento’s Sketchbook* (2011)
T.C. Boyle -- *The Women* (2009)
Anne Boyer -- *A Handbook of Disappointed Fate* (2018)
Charlotte Bronte -- *Villette* (1853)
Tisa Bryant -- *Unexplained Presence* (2007)
Roberto Calasso -- *Tiepolo Pink* (2009)
Teju Cole -- *Blind Spot* (2017)
Guy Davenport -- “Writing Untied and Retied as Drawing” and “Guernica” in *The Hunter Gracchus* (1996)
Joan Didion -- “Georgia O’Keefe” in *The White Album* (1979)
Fyodor Dostoyevsky -- *The Idiot* (1874)
Deborah Eisenberg -- “Someone to Talk To” in *All Around Atlantis* (1998)
Ralph Ellison -- *Living With Music* (2002)
Thalia Field -- *Ululu (Clown Shrapnel)* (2007)
T Fleischmann -- *Syzgy, Beauty: An Essay* (2011)
Michael Frayn -- *Headlong* (1999)
Amy Fusselman -- *Idiophone* (2018)
Mary Gaitskill -- “I’ve Seen it All” and “Imaginary Light” in *Somebody With A Little Hammer: Essays* (2017)
Renee Gladman -- *Calamities* (2016)
Bruce Hainley -- *Under the Sign of [sic]* (2014)
Riley Hanick -- *Three Kinds of Motion* (2015)
Nathaniel Hawthorne -- “The Artist of the Beautiful” (1844)
Susan Howe -- *Sorting Facts, Or, Nineteen Ways of Looking at Marker* (2013)
Leroi Jones -- *Blues People* (1963)
Amitava Kumar -- *Passport Photos* (2000)
Rachel Kushner -- *The Flamethrowers* (2013)
Nathaniel Mackey -- *From a Broken Bottle Traces of Perfume Still Emanate* (2011)
Bernard Malamud -- Title story in *Rembrandt’s Hat* (1973)
Greil Marcus -- *Mystery Train* (1975) and *Invisible Republic* (1997)
Douglas Martin -- *Your Body Figured* (2008)
Herman Melville — “Spouter Inn” chapter in *Moby Dick* (1851)
Eileen Myles -- *The Importance of Being Iceland* (2009)
Elena Passarello -- “Ganda” and “Vogel Staar” in *Animals Strike Curious Poses* (2017)
Lisa Robertson -- “7.5 Minutes for Eva Hesse” in *Nilling* (2012)
John Ruskin -- *Modern Painters* (1843), *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1849) and *The Stones of Venice* (1853)
Rebecca Rutkoff -- *The Irresponsible Magician* (2015)
Ali Smith -- *How to Be Both* (2014)
Zadie Smith -- *Feel Free* (2018)
Susan Sontag -- *On Photography* (1977)
Shapton -- *Swimming Studies* (2012)
Dana Spiotta -- *Innocents and Others* (2016)
John Jeremiah Sullivan -- *Pulphead* (2011)
Barry Targan -- Title story in *Harry Belten and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto* (1975)
Donna Tartt -- *The Goldfinch* (2013)
Greg Tate -- *Flyboy in the Buttermilk* (1992)
Lewis Thomas -- *Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler’s Symphony* (1983)
David Thomson -- *A Biographical Dictionary of Film* (1975)
Lynne Tillman -- *The Complete Madame Realism and Other Stories* (2016)
Edmund de Waal -- *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010) and *The White Road* (2015)
Peter Weiss -- *Aesthetics of Resistance* (1975)
Lawrence Weschler -- *Mr. Wilson’s Cabinet of Wonder* (1995)
Oscar Wilde -- *Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)
Ellen Willis -- *Out of the Vinyl Deeps* (2011)
Virginia Woolf -- *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
Marguerite Yourencenar -- Title essay in *The Dark Brain of Piranesi* (1984)